

Her century of life parallels that of WMU

By Will Pollard and Gilbert Wilder
 Pearl "Mamaw" Norman Moore is 100 years old and still serves the Lord through her local church. She is a person we all need to know.

Her life span parallels the existence of Woman's Missionary Union. Born near Newton, Mississippi, October 13, 1887, this lady has experienced a length of life that only a few ever hope to reach. It has been, and still is, an active life. She lives alone in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Her only child, a son, Bill Moore, and his wife Lottie, live nearby. Lottie calls her every morning at 9:30.

Mrs. Moore is the granddaughter of A. J. Freeman, a Southern Baptist pastor, who was born at about the same time the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845. Freeman also served in the House of Representatives in the State of Mississippi.

Pearl became a Christian at the age of 16 or 17. She was attending a service being held in a



Pearl Norman Moore

schoolhouse on a Sunday afternoon when she made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The biggest changes in her lifetime have been transportation and refrigeration. In her early childhood the only mode of travel

available to her was the two-horse surrey. Then, in 1914 she rode a train to California to attend the World's Fair. Here she watched John Phillip Sousa conduct his band as they performed the famous Sousa March. In 1983 she took her two granddaughters to Hawaii. They traveled by Jumbo Jet. This is one of the few times she has missed Sunday School and church at Broadman Baptist Church, Cuyahoga Falls. She functions as outreach leader of her class. Every absentee, shut-in, or person who has a particular need gets a card or a call from "Mamaw" every week. She then reports to the class on Sunday morning. She says, "No class is worth anything unless you minister to the needs of others. We must send cards, call on the telephone, and let people know we miss them."

She maintains an active prayer list and prays for them each morning. Included on the list are

Sharon and Larry Pumpelly, missionaries to Uganda. Mamaw kept Sharon when Sharon's mother had to be away caring for her own sick mother. She has served churches as organist and has sung in the choir. She is still involved in W.M.U. and takes part on programs. She also keeps a diary. It includes a running record of items of personal interest. It was from her grandfather's diary that she learned her ancestors were from Wales.

As a child, the only refrigeration she had was a deep well in which they placed milk and butter and other items that needed to be kept cool. Later came the ice box, then the refrigerator.

Some of her favorites are:

Song: "How Great Thou Art"

Bible Story: (Not a story, but the idea) — "Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so."

Food: Snap beans, peas, okra, tomatoes, petite Lima beans, apples and pears.

Dessert: Ice cream

She attributes her long life to these three things:

1. She has eaten right.
2. She has slept well.
3. She has lived right.

Mrs. Moore has a very positive outlook for the future. She has a strong hope for peace in the world. Her advice to the youth is to keep their bodies healthy. Do not get involved in taking drugs and alcohol, but rather, work against them.

Her daily schedule begins by getting up every morning at 4:00 o'clock drinking coffee, and having personal devotion. She prays for everyone on her prayer list. She sometimes goes back to bed for a midmorning nap.

A graduate of Clarke College in Mississippi, this lady is well-trained in Christian graces that have a distinct Southern flair. Having lived there 70-plus years before moving to Ohio, one should expect as much.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 5, 1987

Published Since 1877

"Churches need to emphasize, 'Husbands, love your wives,'"

By Elizabeth Watson

PLANO, Texas (BP) — Her husband went into a frenzy. He stomped his feet, clenched his fists, and started screaming at his wife. He stretched out his hands to choke her.

"Now you've done it. I'm going to kill you!" he yelled. The woman's heart raced as she ran out the door. She jumped into the car and quickly locked the doors. Her husband tripped and fell in his pursuit, allowing her to escape.

At the Plano, Texas, police station, she called Collin County Women's Shelter hotline. The phone was answered by Martha Moody, a Southern Baptist.

Moody found safe location for the woman and her children to rest, receive counseling, and make decisions about the future.

This true story has a happier ending than most wife-abuse cases Moody handles as executive director of Collin County Women's Shelter. In the United States, 20 percent of all hospital emergency room visits by women are attributed to wife beating, she said.

"A 1985 study revealed that at least 3,900 women were abused by their husbands in Collin County that year," Moody said. "This figure was based just on domestic disputes reported to

Plano and McKinney police departments.

Actual wife-beating incidents are much higher."

Moody comes from a Christian home where she never experienced family violence. She remembers her first exposure to violence as a 10-year-old trick-or-treater.

"I heard a terrible noise coming out of a house," Moody recalled. "Through a window, I could see a man brutally beating a woman whom I assumed was his wife."

Neighbors refused Moody's requests to call police.

"I stood there in shock because I had never seen that before," Moody said. "It stuck in my mind for a long time. So after I got out of college, I began looking for a way to help others."

More than 15 years later, Moody was exposed to the devastating results of such family violence. As a student at Southern Seminary in Fort Worth, she had an internship at a private psychiatric hospital working with children from abusive families.

After graduation she worked for two years at the Arlington (Texas) Women's Shelter, directing support groups, counseling, and training volunteers.

"At first it was hard to relate to the victims," Moody said. "But you don't have to experience what they have gone through to lend love and support."

Although Collin County Women's Shelter is only two years old, it offers a 24-hour hotline, crisis counseling, legal referral, medical assistance, support-group therapy, and a safehousing program.

Moody has several messages for churches, based upon her work with battered women.

Primarily, churches need to place a stronger emphasis on the biblical admonition for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church, she said. "Ministers need to teach us to put responsibility for our own behavior on our own heads," she explained.

Second, churches must realize wife abuse does not just happen in lower economic groups, Moody said: "Battered-women syndrome knows no boundaries."

"The husband denies he's an abuser. The wife denies the problem is as bad as it is. And society denies the problem exists all together," she said.

Elizabeth Watson writes for Southwestern Seminary.

Arab students meet in Cyprus for now

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary has been denied official recognition by Cyprus, creating a problem for students applying for visas. However, government officials have agreed to provide two-month renewable visas for the students to continue their training, at least temporarily.

Seminary training will continue for the current academic year, but long-range plans for its location are uncertain. Ten students from Lebanon, three from Syria, and two from Jordan are being affected by the visa restrictions, said Bill Trimble, a Southern Baptist missionary and dean of students.

The seminary moved from Beirut to Cyprus in March after the U.S. government ended passport

privileges for Americans in Lebanon. Three Southern Baptist missionaries are the nucleus of the faculty: Trimble of Rodessa, La.; Emmett Barnes of Potosi, Mo.; and David King of Livingston, N.J.

The seminary operated in Cyprus by renting classroom space and housing for 16 students at an interdenominational conference center near Nicosia. Two students, one from Lebanon and the other from Jordan, graduated in June.

The fall semester already had been delayed more than three weeks while the seminary waited for word of the Cypriot Ministry of Education's decision, Trimble said. Space has been rented in a hotel in the port city of Larnaca.

Typhoon blasts Taiwan; churches are damaged

By Linda Phillips

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP) — Typhoon Lynn brought floods, destruction, and death in late October to the people of Taiwan, including Baptists.

The typhoon hit southern Taiwan Oct. 24, but caused the most serious damage as it moved north toward Taipei. The capital city was hit by the worst flooding in 40 years as the overflowing Keelung River swept through streets and homes. Wire reports said 49 people had died by Oct. 26. The typhoon dumped 68 inches of rain on the Taipei area in 72 hours.

Hardest hit was the town of Hsichih, north of Taipei. The whole town was flooded as the river overflowed its banks. Police rescued 3,000 stranded residents. The Hsichih Baptist Chapel, where Southern Baptist mis-

sionaries Herbert and Alice Barrett work, was flooded with six feet of water. The Barretts are from Missouri.

Many Baptists' homes were damaged by flooding in Taipei. Ten Baptist churches are located close to the Keelung River. Several churches were damaged extensively by flooding, and at least two other seminarians and a pastor were evacuated from churches where they were stranded by high water.

No damage to missionary homes and property was reported. Lynn was called the second-worst typhoon to hit Taiwan since 1959. The worst, Typhoon Wayne, killed 52 people last year.

Linda Phillips is a Southern Baptist press representative in Taiwan.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Convention, Pastors' Conference

Mississippi Baptist's most important gathering will be held next week.

And the Pastor's Conference will begin its second year.

The annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention begins Monday evening and goes through Wednesday noon. This is the major gathering of Mississippi Baptists and relates to everything that we do beyond the local church in mission endeavors. This is not to bypass association missions work, but in many cases funds that help to take care of missions efforts on the association scene are routed from the churches through the convention and then back to the association.

So, for Mississippi Baptists, the annual convention is the most important meeting that we have.

The most important actions that we will take during the meeting will relate to missions. We will hear reports concerning our state missions efforts, and we will make decisions concerning missions efforts throughout the United States and around the world as we consider our annual budget and how we will relate to the Cooperative Program. We are increasing our Cooperative Program goal each year by one-half of a

percentage point per year. The percentage factor for this year has been 36.5. That means that we will be seeking to send 37 percent of our receipts through the state office to mission causes beyond our state if our 1988 budget is adopted.

The convention will elect a new president and two new vice-presidents. Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, will have served two years in the office. While there is no constitutional limit on the number of terms the president is able to serve, it has been traditional in recent years for a president to be elected for no more than two terms. The only exceptions in this century were H. F. Sproles in 1903, 1904, and 1905 and R.B. Gunter in 1940, 1941, and 1942. In 1937 the name of the convention was changed. It had been the Convention of the Baptist Denomination of the State of Mississippi since its organization in 1836. The new name, mercifully, became The Mississippi Baptist Convention.

There was an earlier convention that was organized in 1824. It was called the Mississippi Baptist State Convention. It lasted until 1829 and was dissolved.

It is of interest, perhaps, that P.I.

Lipsey, editor of the Baptist Record, served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1924 and 1925. This was five years after the convention had bought the Baptist Record in 1919. Suffice it to say that the present editor has no aspirations to serve in the presidency of the convention, nor could he get elected if he had such aspirations.

The Pastors' Conference enters into its second year next week. It was established by convention vote in 1985 and began its sessions last year with a slate of officers named by a committee of the convention. Last year's meeting saw the election of the present officers, and this year's meeting will be the inauguration of the conference completely on its own.

Gerald Harris, pastor, of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, is president of the Pastors' Conference.

The Pastors' Conference sessions will be Monday morning and Monday afternoon.

The convention begins with a state missions emphasis on Monday evening.

The record convention registration was 1,831 in 1985. Last year's registration was 1,759. The Pastors' Conference attendance last year was

"JOGGING IS A LOT LIKE DOING DAILY DEVOTIONS— I CAN TELL A DIFFERENCE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE CAN!"



about 800. Both meetings will be at First Church, Jackson.

Next week will be a highly important time in Mississippi Baptist life. Those attendance records should be broken, and Mississippi Baptists should be in their meetings to help

establish directions and plan actions. There has never been a time when a positive witness in the name of the Lord was more needed. We can provide that witness by attending the convention and the Pastors' Conference and helping to project such a witness.

Guest opinion . . .

Malachi is . . .

By M. Pierce Matheney, Jr.

Malachi is the January Bible Study book for 1988.

Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament, according to the arrangement of the English Bible.

Malachi is the last of the writing prophets in the Hebrew Bible.

Malachi is his personal name, meaning "my messenger."

Malachi is predicting the prophetic forerunner of the Messiah. (3:1)

Malachi is identifying this prophetic forerunner as the Elijah. (4:5-6)

Malachi is peering over into Matthew. (11:10, 17:10-13)

Malachi is preaching to those returned from exile in the fifth century B.C.

Malachi is teaching a rebellious group of people who question everything he says.

Malachi is convincing them of the love of the Father, the greatness of their Master and King.

Malachi is predicting the conquest of Edom by Nabataens as an example of these truths.

Malachi is particularly concerned with temple worship.

Malachi is criticizing the people's priorities as political rather than religious.

Malachi is saying the Lord would rather have no worship than slovenly worship.

Malachi is saying that other nations, or Jews living among the nations, offer a purer worship than Jerusalem Jews.

Malachi is pronouncing the Lord's curse on cheating worshippers and half-hearted priests.

Malachi is reminding the priests of the Lord's covenant with Levi.

Malachi is focussing on true instruction (Torah) as the ideal of this covenant.

Malachi is criticizing divorce as faithlessness to the marital covenant.

Malachi is condemning mixed marriages with women of foreign religions.

Malachi is saying the Lord is mainly concerned with the children of such marriages.

Malachi is agreeing on this subject with Ezra (10:2ff) and Nehemiah (13:23ff).

Malachi is condemning those who weary the Lord by charging Him with doing nothing for justice.

Malachi is saying these cynics blur moral distinctions with their accusations.

Malachi is predicting the coming of the Lord in swift judgment.

Malachi is assuring that a prophetic forerunner will prepare the way of the Lord.

Malachi is focussing the Lord's fiery refining on the sons of Levi and their temple offerings.

Malachi is also condemning the people and their sins.

Malachi is highlighting the Lord's changeless mercy that prevents them from total destruction.

Malachi is preaching genuine repentance.

Malachi is teaching tithes and offerings as a test of whether these "robbers" have really repented.

Malachi is promising a blessing on those who will honor God with the full tithes.

Malachi is rejoicing that a remnant of God-fearers are recorded in the Lord's book to be spared in the Judgment.

Malachi is certain that the day of the Lord is coming soon.

Malachi is predicting that day will burn up the wicked.

Malachi is equally certain that the dawning of that day will provide a healing sunrise for the righteous.

The pastor's housing

A visit with a pastor last week revealed that he is living in a church-owned home. It is very nice and very likely more expensive than he could afford if he were called on to buy his own home. Yet it presents a problem which the middle-aged pastor is beginning to consider.

His salary is based on the fact that he lives in a church-owned home. In other words, the house is considered to be a part of his salary. The salary is completely adequate, and the house is nice, but there is no provision being made for his buying a home when he retires. The salary does have enough cushion for him to be building an equity with which to buy a home on retirement.

Churches are to be commended for providing nice homes for their

Malachi is calling Israel to remembrance of the law of Moses.

Malachi is predicting the coming of Elijah before the day of the Lord.

Malachi is defining the mission of this forerunner of the Messiah as reconciliation between the generations.

Malachi is no "minor" prophet except in the brevity of his book.

M. Pierce Matheney has been Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Midwestern Seminary for 27 years and is currently on sabbatical leave in Jerusalem.

pastors. They need to look beyond the prestige of furnishing a nice home for the present and give thought to the fact that the pastor is going to face a problem on retirement.

The solution to this dilemma will not be easy in coming. The tradition of the church furnishing the pastor a home is deep rooted. I know. I grew up in a church-owned home. So churches are going to be reluctant to sell their nice homes and provide larger salaries with which the pastors can buy their own homes. Many times the church-owned home is nicer than the pastor could afford to buy with the salary that the church is able to pay, should he wish to buy the present pastorium from the church.

There will be no easy solution to be found. Not every church will feel disposed to try to address the problem; and those that do may approach it in different fashions.

The only general solution would seem to be for the churches to sell the pastorioms and pay the pastors more salary. Yet that will not always be practical. With the high-priced housing of this day, it would take a substantial income increase for the pastor to be able to purchase a house.

So here is a problem being posed without any solution being offered. It is, however, a problem that demands consideration.

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"United In Spirit . . . Intent On Purpose" Mississippi Baptist Convention

152nd Session
November 9-11, 1987
First Baptist Church
Jackson, Mississippi

"Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

Philippians 2:2 (NAS)

Nov. 9

Monday Evening

"Make My Joy Complete By Being Of The Same Mind . . ."

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 6:30 Pre-Convention Concert | Mississippi Singing Churchmen |
| | Milfred Valentine, director |
| 6:55 Call to Worship | Mississippi Singing Churchmen |
| 7:00 Congregational Praise | Franklin Denham, Highland, Meridian |
| Scripture — (Philippians 2:1-11) | Gwin Middleton |
| Prayer | Danny Watkins |
| 7:05 Organization of Convention | |
| Recognition and seating of Messengers | Frank Gunn |
| Report of Committee on Order of Business | Joy Yates |
| Welcome | Schuyler Batson |
| 7:15 Special Music | Mississippi Singing Churchmen |
| 7:20 Bible Treasure | Brian Harbour |
| 7:45 New Workers Recognized | Earl Kelly |
| Report of Committee on Committees | Guy Reedy |
| Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee | Eugene Dobbs |
| Presentation of 1988 Budget | Larry Otis |
| 8:15 Bold New Growth Testimony | |
| 8:20 Congregational Praise | Franklin Denham |
| 8:25 Special Music | Mississippi Singing Churchmen |
| 8:30 Message | Earl Kelly |
| 9:15 Benediction | (Prayer Groups) |
| Choral Praise | Mississippi Singing Churchmen |

Nov. 10

Tuesday Morning

"Make My Joy Complete . . . Maintaining The Same Love . . ."

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 8:30 Prelude | Instrumental/Choral Praise |
| 8:55 Call to Worship | First Baptist Church Choir, Biloxi |
| | Leon Bedsole, Director |
| 9:00 Congregational Praise | Leon Bedsole |
| Scripture — (1 John 4:7-16) | Dan Robertson |
| Prayer | John Brock, Jr. |
| 9:05 Bible Treasure | Brian Harbour |
| 9:30 Business Session | |
| Presentation of Resolutions | |
| Election of Convention President | |
| 10:00 Report of Christian Action Commission | Paul Jones |
| 10:10 Special Music | First Baptist Church Choir, Biloxi |
| 10:15 Congregational Praise | Leon Bedsole |
| 10:20 Bold New Growth Testimony | |
| 10:25 Report of Committees | |
| Nominations | Julia Otis |
| Time, Place, Preacher | |
| 10:30 Report of Education Commission | James Street |
| 10:35 Business Session | |
| Convention Board Report | Paul Stevens |
| Adoption of Budget | Larry Otis |
| Miscellaneous Business | |
| 10:55 Mississippi Baptist Foundation | Aubrey Boone |
| 11:00 Recognition of Charles Pickering | |
| 11:05 Convention in Worship | |
| Congregational Praise | Leon Bedsole |
| Special Music | First Baptist Church Choir, Biloxi |
| President's Message | Frank Gunn |
| 12:00 Benediction | John Armistead |
| Choral Praise | First Baptist Church Choir, Biloxi |

Nov. 10

Tuesday Afternoon

"Make My Joy Complete . . . United In Spirit . . ."

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1:30 Prelude | Instrumental/Choral Praise |
| 1:55 Call to Worship | First Baptist Church Choir, Brookhaven |
| | Steve Huey, Director |

(Continued on page 4)

"Together for His glory"

By Kathryn Barfield

"Together in His Name, we're here to proclaim and sing His praises. Our fellowship is strong, as we join in this song, our voices raise. Oh, Father, help us give our best and help us live each day within your will. Our spirits fill . . . with love dear Lord for you, our Christian brother too, All for your glory."

Together, for His glory, we're together in the Lord . . . Together, for His glory, we're together in the Lord . . . Walking hand in hand we'll take our stand, according to His will. Together for His glory, we're together in the Lord."

This will be the convention theme song. Choir arrangement by Gaye Sikes of Yazoo City.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 5, 1987

Published Since 1877

Convention will vote on \$18.9 million budget

By Tim Nicholas

The 152nd session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will take place in Jackson at First Church, Nov. 9-11, with the theme "United in Spirit . . . Intent on Purpose," taken from Philippians 2:2 in the Bible.

Major business matters of the convention include election of a president, consideration of an \$18.9 million 1988 budget, and a \$5.7 million building package.

The outgoing president, Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, is completing the second of two one year terms, which is traditionally the maximum.

The 1988 budget, which must be approved by the messengers who are elected by the nearly 2,000 participating churches in the state, would help fund Southern Baptist activities in Mississippi and around the world. This budget includes a \$55,095 line item to aid financially-troubled Clarke College which is one-fifth of Clarke's current deficit.

The \$5.7 million building package includes \$4.1 million to increase by half the capacity of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Pass Christian. The retreat facility now holds about 320. A \$1.1 million staff housing and mini-

retreat center at Gulfshore and a half million dollars for a Baptist Student Center at the University of Mississippi round out the package.

Frank Gunn's presidential address will take place at 11:05 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10. The convention sermon will be brought by Robert Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, that afternoon at 3:45.

Other major addresses will be delivered by Robert Hamblin, Earl Kelly, and Richard Jackson.

Hamblin, a former pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, is director of (Continued on page 5)

Mercer trustees stand firm behind Godsey, election system

By Jack U. Harwell

ATLANTA (BP) — Trustees of Mercer University have taken a solid stand in support of President R. Kirby Godsey, in defense of the present system of electing Mercer trustees and in favor of a continued relationship with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The stances were approved unanimously by 30 of Mercer's 45 trustees in a called session at Mercer Atlanta.

They met in response to a 16-page booklet put together by layman Lee Roberts of Marietta and mailed to about 6,000 persons in Georgia.

Roberts' booklet — called an open letter to all Georgia Baptists — charged Mercer with a long list of "im-

moral" acts and "debauchery" on the campus, and alleged that Godsey was a "universalist," based on speeches he made last January at Houston Baptist University.

The 16-page booklet by Roberts demanded that Mercer change its system of electing trustees — letting Georgia Baptist Convention "freely" elect them — or the convention would be asked to withhold allocations to Mercer; trustees would be asked to resign and trustees would be called on to return about \$13 million given to the school by the convention since Godsey became president eight years ago.

In the Oct. 23 meeting, Mercer trustees expressed 10 "resolves." Trustee Chairman Bob Steed of Atlan-

ta said they were approved unanimously by the 30 trustees present.

One resolved to "maintain and strengthen the university's commitment to the fundamental Baptist traditions of academic and religious freedom, and the priesthood of the believer."

The second resolved to "proudly affirm the leadership of university President R. Kirby Godsey. He has demonstrated wisdom, strength and administrative ability which will serve Mercer and its students for years to come."

That resolve also stated: "Admonished by Matthew 7:1-2, we call (Continued on page 4)

Mississippi Baptist Convention

(Continued from page 3)

- 2:00 Congregational Praise
Scripture — (Romans 8:14-17) Jimmy McLendon
Prayer Gerald Martin
- 2:05 Bible Treasure Brian Harbour
- 2:30 Congregational Praise Steve Huey
- 2:35 Bold New Growth Testimony
- 2:40 Election of Convention Officers
First Vice-President
Second Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Associate Recording Secretary
- 3:00 Miscellaneous Business
- 3:15 Special Music First Baptist Church Choir, Brookhaven
- 3:20 Report of Baptist Children's Village Paul N. Nunnery
- 3:25 Report of The Mississippi Mission Harry Vickery
- 3:30 Report of Board of Ministerial Education Hardy Denham
- 3:35 WMU Centennial Marjean Patterson
- 3:45 Convention in Worship
Congregational Praise Steve Huey
Special Music First Baptist Church Choir, Brookhaven
Convention Sermon Robert Self, First Baptist Church, Brookhaven
- 4:30 Benediction Edsol C. Wells
Choral Praise First Baptist Church Choir, Brookhaven

Nov. 10

Tuesday Evening

"Make My Joy Complete . . . Intent On One Purpose . . ."

- 6:30 Prelude Instrumental/Choral Praise
- 6:55 Call To Worship First Baptist Church Choir, Jackson
Larry Black, Director
- 7:00 Congregational Praise Larry Black
Scripture — (Acts 2:41-47) John Allen
Prayer Clyde Little
- 7:05 Bible Treasure Brian Harbour
- 7:30 Congregational Praise Larry Black
- 7:35 Cooperative Program James Powell
- 7:45 Bold New Growth Testimony
- 7:50 Special Music First Baptist Church Choir, Jackson
- 7:55 Brotherhood Report Paul Harrell
Layman Testimony Carl Myers
- 8:05 Convention in Worship
Congregational Praise Larry Black
Special Music First Baptist Church Choir, Jackson
Sermon Richard A. Jackson
- 9:00 Benediction Billy Lee Foley
Choral Praise First Baptist Church Choir, Jackson

Nov. 11

Wednesday Morning

*"Make My Joy Complete . . . Same Mind . . . Same Love . . .
United Spirit . . . One Purpose . . ."*

- 8:30 Prelude Instrumental/Choral Praise
- 8:55 Call to Worship First Baptist Church Choir, Hattiesburg
Jim Hayes, Director
- 9:00 Congregational Hymn Jim Hayes
Scripture — (1 Thessalonians 3:9-13) Jerry Patterson
Prayer James C. Edwards
- 9:05 Bible Treasure Brian Harbour
- 9:30 Miscellaneous Business and Report of Resolutions Committee
- 10:20 Congregational Praise Jim Hayes
- 10:25 Bold New Growth Testimony
- 10:30 Special Music First Baptist Church Choir, Hattiesburg
- 10:35 Memorial Service Louis Smith
- 10:45 Convention in Worship
Congregational Praise Jim Hayes
Special Music Charlie Ray
Sermon Robert L. Hamblin
- 11:45 Benediction Lyndle Davis
Choral Praise First Baptist Church Choir, Hattiesburg

Mississippi Baptist Convention Officers:

President, Frank Gunn; First Vice-President, Ray T. Myers; Second Vice-President, Tommy Tutor; Recording Secretary, J. Clark Hensley; Associate Recording Secretary, J. W. Brister.



Halls establish memorial scholarship

Pictured from left with Aubrey Boone of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation are Daniel, Mera, and Rowland Hall. The Halls have established with the Foundation the Dan C. Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund to aid Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary students who are preparing for the music ministry in Southern Baptist churches. Dan Hall was director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department until his death last month.

Mercer trustees stand firm behind Godsey, election system

(Continued from page 3)

upon all Baptists to respect the religious freedom of one another and cease the deplorable spectacle of intolerance of, and charges against, brothers and sisters in Christ."

The third resolve said that "We affirm that a university with a Baptist heritage should be distinct in certain aspects of campus and student activities." Therefore, it said, the school does not allow serving or consumption of alcoholic beverages on any of its campuses; does not permit publication in student newspapers material unsuitable in daily newspapers of Georgia; does not permit advertisement of alcohol, tobacco, contraceptives or firearm products; does not permit showing of X-rated or pornographic films on its campus and does not condone publications such as Playboy, "which demean the worth and sexuality of human beings."

Mercer trustees also resolved to "affirm the historic and mutually supportive relationship between Mercer and Georgia Baptists. The university is strengthened by the spiritual and financial support of Baptists."

Another resolve said "Georgia Baptists will be heard by the trustees and officers of the university," but neither Mercer nor Georgia Baptists "should nor will dominate or control the other."

Some of the trustees' strongest statements came in a "resolve" which stated: "Pursuant to the charter of the university and our appointment as trustees, we cannot and will not compromise the authority vested in the trustees alone for operation and control of affairs of the university. We cannot and will not relinquish the responsibility which the charter vests in the trustees for nominating successors to the board."

Mercer trustees also rejected any

"joint review panel that is charged to investigate or to study Mercer. It is the trustees and the trustees alone who bear responsibility for overseeing endeavors of the university." They said any question about governance of Mercer should be addressed directly to the president or the chairman of trustees.

Mercer trustees also spoke firmly for allowing non-Baptist persons to serve on the board of trustees. "The need for diversity within the board of trustees must be respected and affirmed by the Georgia Baptist Convention," the trustees resolved.

The final "resolve" by Mercer trustees said "the university must present an academic environment that places no religious constraints on inquiry, debate, scholarship, teaching, research, or writing. At the same time, the university is fundamentally committed to the proposition that the Christian faith and Judeo-Christian moral and religious values will be presented in the academic program of the university, and that opportunities for worship and spiritual growth will be made available for students, faculty, and staff."

At a press conference following the trustee meeting, Godsey told reporters: "The trustees reaffirmed the commitment of the university to being a Baptist university, to intellectual, academic and spiritual freedom."

He said: "This controversy has brought the university family together. When the foundations of religious and academic freedoms are shaken, we will stand together, united."

Trustee chairman Steed added: "Our trustees are of one mind, respectful of the Georgia Baptist Convention and its members, but emphatic in our determination not to

change the system of electing trustees and governing Mercer University."

Griffin Bell, a Mercer trustee and former U.S. Attorney General, said, "The convention has no legal remedy except to cut off funds . . . If they put us out, we would have to resort to going directly to the churches."

Bell added: "This fight started 10 years ago in Texas. I wish they would go back to Texas and leave us alone . . . Mr. Roberts is apparently the leader in Georgia. I don't know who is helping him. I do know it is a grave issue . . . I don't think Lee Roberts represents the majority of Georgia Baptists, or Southern Baptists. We do think Georgia is the first state convention they are trying to capture."

Answering questions about his theological views, Godsey said: "I have never been called a heretic before. Baptists have always been known for the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer."

"Each person is responsible to God alone for his beliefs. That applies to me as well."

To which Steed responded: "I think Kirby Godsey's theology is as solid as a rock."

Many local associations and churches in Georgia have adopted resolutions about Mercer, some for and some against Godsey and the system of electing trustees.

Atlanta association voiced strong support. So did First Baptist Church in Augusta, birthplace of the SBC. But two of the state's largest churches — Atlanta's First Baptist and Marietta's Eastside Baptist — announced they would designate their Cooperative Program contributions around Mercer.

Jack Harwell is editor of the Georgia Christian Index.

Fire In The Pulpit Fervor In The Pew

2nd Annual Mississippi Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference

November 9, 1987
First Baptist Church
Jackson, Mississippi
Monday - a.m.

"... But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones..."
(Jeremiah 20:9)

9:30 Pre-Conference music Debby Case, Piano
Ruth Keyes, Organ

9:45 Prayer Doug Brill

9:50 Music Larry Kulcke

10:05 Message Ed Gandy

10:35 Music D.C. and Diann Greer

10:50 Offering

10:55 Message Gary Berry

11:25 Benediction Ron Burch

Monday - p.m.

"... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"
(Revelation 2:10)

1:00 Pre-Conference Music Debby Case, Piano
Ruth Keyes, Organ

1:15 Prayer Bert Harper

1:20 Music Larry Kulcke

1:30 Message Kara Blackard

2:00 Greetings Frank Gunn

2:05 Music Larry Kulcke

2:15 Message Davis Odom

2:45 Election of Officers

2:55 Music and Testimony Sheldon Gooch

3:10 Message James Merritt

3:40 Music and Offering

3:55 Message Jimmy Draper

4:30 Benediction Dwight Smith

Pastors' Conference Officers

President J. Gerald Harris, Pastor, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson
Vice-President Tommy Vinson, Pastor, Colonial Hills Church, Southaven
Secretary-Treasurer Jon Doler, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Raleigh

Annuity Board's trustees are assured of agency's stability

DALLAS (BP) — Amid the stormy atmosphere of unstable stock markets, trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board were assured that the Southern Baptist agency remains a stable and safe financial institution.

Trustees also reaffirmed hiring policies of officers in response to the report of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee.

The volatile growth in the stock market had to contain the potential for a major loss, Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan told the trustees in their October meeting.

But despite the stock losses, Morgan encouraged trustees to caution members from moving their money from the retirement plan funds that contain stocks: "We never give advice on which fund to choose, but we must caution our people against panic reactions. Members in the Variable and Balanced funds have incurred paper losses. But if they start moving their money out now, they will incur real losses."

"In the pension world, we are in the market for the long-term. We don't panic over drops, and we don't get overly excited during a bull market."

Morgan reminded trustees, "We hire competent, capable managers who are evaluated for their performance by both paid consultants and your finance committee."

He noted bonds are gaining momentum, and said 70 percent of board investments are in fixed instruments.

Treasurer Harold Richardson reported income at the end of the third quarter was up \$30 million over last year, to \$173.3 million. Total assets increased 15 percent, to \$2.17 billion.

In response to the Peace Committee recommendations, the trustees unanimously approved a resolution that reaffirms the current hiring

practices for officers. The resolution states, "All of the officers of the Annuity Board are active members of local Southern Baptist churches and all subscribe fully to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement."

In further action, the trustees ap-

proved 32 new members for a monthly \$50 supplemental assistance through the "Adopt an Annuitant" program.

Fifteen annuitants were given relief grants from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget allocations.

Committee on Committees submits list of names

Guy Reedy of Water Valley, chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees, reports the work of his committee is complete. The persons named below will be submitted to the MBC next week for approval prior to service.

Committee on Nominations: Bill Causey, Jackson, chairman; Mrs. Patti Dent, Holly Springs; Ed Deuschle, Fulton; David Spencer, Long Beach; Roger Johnson, Hattiesburg;

Order of Business Committee: Gary Berry, McComb; Miss Becky Payne, Jackson;

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Ed Cooper, Oxford; Bruce Hill, Lexington;

Constitution and Bylaws Committee: John W. Flowers, Senatobia,

chairman; E.W. Holmes, Biloxi; Clyde Little, Bay Springs; Donnie Stewart, Holly Springs; James Spencer, Pontotoc;

Resolutions Committee: John McCall, Clinton, chairman; Larry Otis, Tupelo; Mrs. Joel (Martha Jean) Alvis, Jackson; David Merritt, Natchez; Robert Perry Sr., Waynesboro; Jon Doler, Raleigh; Reese Kyzar, Rolling Fork;

Time, Place and Preacher Committee: Jimmy McGee, Grenada, chairman; Tom Rayburn, Laurel; Ernest Sadler, Wiggins; Jerry Massey, Amory; and Ed Hewlett, Picayune.

Other members of the Committee on Committees include Mrs. Ingram (Bobbie) Foster, Avery Jones, Dennis Johnsey, and Bob Self.

Convention will vote on \$18.9 million budget

(Continued from page 3)

the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Evangelism Section. Hamblin is the concluding speaker at 11:45 a.m., Nov. 11.

Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, will preach his traditional missions message at 8:30 p.m., Nov. 9.

And Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church in Arizona, will speak at 8:05 p.m., Nov. 10.

Sprinkled throughout the five convention sessions is the annual series

of Bible Treasure messages. This year's speaker will be Brian Harbour, a former pastor of Colonial Heights Church in Jackson. He is pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

The convention will be preceded by a Pastors' Conference, beginning at 9:30 the morning of Nov. 9, concluding at 4:30 that afternoon. (See schedule in this issue.)

Special music will be by Charlie Ray of Hattiesburg. Other musical groups include the choirs of First Baptist churches of Biloxi, Brookhaven, Jackson, and Hattiesburg.

Accompanists for the convention will be Mrs. Eva Hart, pianist, and Miss Becky Payne, organist. They are music staffers at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Convention luncheons

New Orleans

Mississippi alumni of New Orleans Seminary will hold their annual luncheon meeting at noon on November 10, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

According to Jim Futral, secretary-treasurer, advance tickets may be purchased for \$9.00 by sending checks to him at Broadmoor Baptist Church, 797 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, MS. 39206. Tickets will be held at luncheon desk unless a stamped and addressed envelope accompanies order. After the state convention begins, all tickets will be \$10.00.

The many retired New Orleans Seminary professors who now live in Mississippi will be featured as part of the program.

Southwestern

Southwestern Seminary Alumni Association of Mississippi will hold its annual luncheon on Tuesday, November 10, noon, at Calvary Church, Jackson. Tickets may be purchased from Jack Bennett, 202 East

Pine, Ripley, Miss. 38663, for \$10.00. Tickets will also be available on Monday at the convention.

Mississippi alumni president, Dan Wynn of First Church, Natchez, extends an invitation to all former S.W.B.T.S. students to join together for this time of reunion. Jack D. Terry, dean of the School of Religious Education at the seminary, will be special guest and will bring an up-to-date report on what is happening on Seminary Hill.

Southern

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The annual meeting of alumni and friends of Southern Seminary, Jackson, has been set for Nov. 10 at 12:30 p.m. at Sky Room/Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street.

Ronnie Prevost will be the featured speaker.

Tickets may be obtained from Bill Webb, Midway Baptist Church, Route 9, Box 629, Meridian, MS, 39305, for \$6.75 (\$7.75 at convention).

William Carey

William Carey College Alumni Breakfast will be held Tuesday, Nov.

10, 7:45 a.m. in Small Dining Room A and B of First Church. Don Fowler, WCC '57, retired army chaplain and now academic and student development coordinator at Carey on the Coast, will be featured speaker.

Southern Baptists For Life

Southern Baptists for Life will meet in the Sky Room of the Baptist Building at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, for a continental breakfast.

MBREA

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its fall fellowship luncheon on Monday, Nov. 9, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. Ron Pratt, adult consultant, Sunday School Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, will be the guest speaker. The Naturals from Mississippi College will present special music.

Preschool care to be available at convention


Preschool care will be available for children, ages birth through five, at First Church, Jackson, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 9-11.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off President Street.

The following are procedures to be followed:

1. Register, giving names of the child or children, the parent, and the church.
2. Be sure all belongings are labeled.
3. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.
4. Leave the children no earlier than 20 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the sessions.

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Preachers featured on 'Baptist Hour' say they have not used it for politics

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Two preachers featured on the "Baptist Hour" program on the ACTS television network say they have not used the program for denominational political purposes.

Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, and Peter James Flamming, pastor of First Church, Richmond, Va., made the statements in response to charges they might have used the program to promote moderate political causes within the Southern Baptist Convention.

During the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, Paul Pressler, a Houston layman, said the two preachers on the program were candidates for office during the 1987 annual meeting. Jackson was nominated for president, and Flamming was nominated for first vice president. Neither was elected.

"People are wondering: Is the Radio and Television Commission/ACTS supporting candidates for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency?" Pressler asked.

He told RTVC/ACTS President Jimmy R. Allen: "You are doing a dangerous thing for Southern Baptists to give the impression, accurate or not, that the 'Baptist Hour' is used to promote presidential campaigns."

Pressler commented during a plenary session of the Executive Committee and said he may offer a resolution on the matter. At the end of the meeting, he said he would not bring the resolution.

However, during a meeting of the business and finance subcommittee, members voted 6-5 not to adopt a resolution which said, in part, that "the Executive Committee strongly urges the ACTS network to obtain a pledge to Southern Baptists from anyone who receives free or reduced-rate time on the ACTS network not to be a candidate for elective office within the Southern Baptist Convention within one year of his last appearance on such free or reduced-rate time on the ACTS network."

In his comments, Pressler also referred to a meeting in which Jackson reportedly told a group of Texans he would allow himself to be nominated again at the 1988 annual meeting. The Houston layman asked, "Are you going to allow him to continue (preaching on the 'Baptist Hour')?"

Allen replied the commission is "trying not to have candidates. We're looking for folks that will preach the gospel with commitment and skill," and added the preachers were selected last January for a 12-month rotation. "We will finish the rotation," he said.

Jackson told the Baptist Beacon, newsjournal of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, he had tried to protect the "Baptist Hour" from the SBC controversy. When it appeared he might be nominated in 1987, he withdrew from the program and was replaced by his associate, Joe Ford, for four weeks.

In response to Pressler's comments,

Jackson told the Beacon: "This is another obvious indication that the proclamation of the gospel has taken a back seat to the power-seeking ambition of individuals within our convention. We at North Phoenix have never done anything on the 'Baptist Hour' except to proclaim the gospel. It is obvious that the proclamation is certainly not the primary concern of some."

"Those who subjectively conclude that we would use the 'Baptist Hour' ministry for political purposes have only one criteria by which to offer such supposition. That criteria is the attitude of their own hearts and minds."

They must reason that if they were in the position to so take advantage, they would do it. Therefore, they conclude that we would act in the same manner."

Flamming, who preaches both for the television and radio versions of the "Baptist Hour," told Baptist Press he has never dealt with the SBC controversy in any message he has delivered on the show.

"Our emphasis has been on providing a worship experience for those who watch, giving them biblical truth as related to the needs of life. I have avoided any kind of political involvement," he said.

Flamming added he began "providing the service" to Southern Baptists in January, but was "only asked to be a candidate for vice president four days before the convention. The 'Baptist Hour' involvement is for a

year, while the nomination for office lasted only about four days."

He added he saw his involvement with the show as "providing a service for Southern Baptists" in that the church bears all production, editing, and other costs and provides the TV show free of charge to the network.

"If I had felt there was a conflict of interest between preaching on the 'Baptist Hour' and being nominated, I would never have allowed my nomination," he said.

"I have been pleased we were able to serve, and I regret Mr. Pressler has been offended," Flamming added.

Jackson also told the Baptist Beacon that while the time on ACTS is provided free of charge, North Phoenix has assumed all costs of production, editing, and programming. He said that North Phoenix Church, in addition to contributing \$1 million through the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget last year, and making other gifts to missions causes, has voluntarily given more than \$50,000 per year to the ACTS network.

Jackson also told the Beacon: "It is inaccurate that I told any group anywhere that I would be nominated for president of the convention. I have stated to the entire Baptist constituency that I will be available anytime that this convention should call upon me for any helpful contribution they might think me capable of offering."

Contributing to this article were Elizabeth Young, managing editor of The Baptist Beacon, and Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press.

Peaceful meeting at Southwestern leaves some wondering what happened

By Mark Wingfield

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The peaceful meeting of trustees at Southwestern Seminary Oct. 19-21 left most observers and even some trustees wondering what happened to the anticipated controversy.

Trustees of other Southern Baptist institutions and agencies have faced off in confrontations this fall. Moderates and conservatives have clashed on boards of Southeastern Seminary, the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee, and the Christian Life Commission.

And Southwestern's past trustee meetings have not been noted for harmony. Rumors had circulated for weeks before Southwestern's fall meeting that the new conservative majority on the seminary board would try to bring wholesale changes. But that did not happen.

Newly elected board Chairman Ken Lilly, a layman from Fort Smith, Ark., explained to reporters: "We prayed a lot about this. Many people who have had differences of opinion no longer have those differences. It sort of all just came together in this meeting."

Outgoing board Chairman Drew Gunnells of Mobile, Ala., and seminary President Russell Dilday agreed prayer made a difference.

"Prayer definitely was a part of it," Gunnells said. "What has happened elsewhere in the convention heightened our concern for prayer." Dilday said the meeting's harmony was "a providential answer to prayer." In addition, Gunnells said trustees worked hard to have a good meeting:

"All our trustees wanted to have a harmonious meeting. They were willing to work out their differences of opinion in a spirit of cooperation."

Another factor, Dilday said, is that Southwestern does not face the problems other Southern Baptist Convention institutions are dealing with.

"Some of our trustees have said that the problems they are concerned about are not found here at Southwestern," he added.

The board and administration have decided to "focus on this institution and its future rather than on the overall problems of the SBC," he added.

Yet whether this one peaceful meeting has brought healing to Southwestern's board of trustees or is merely a bandage is unclear.

Lilly told reporters he thinks the board will operate harmoniously. "This seminary is in good shape," he said.

At the end of the meeting, Lilly asked trustees to join hands around the tables for prayer. "Lord, help us all to love, honor, and respect each other," he prayed.

"I hope this spirit of fairness and cooperation will characterize the future," Gunnells said.

The key is compromise, he added. In committee work at this meeting, both sides conceded some points. "As long as that is possible, you're going to have harmony," he noted.

"But you can't compromise on everything," Gunnells said. For that reason he does not expect everything to be unanimous in the future.

Dilday agrees: "While we rejoice in the positive, harmonious nature of this board meeting, it does not imply that differences on our board no longer exist. But we hope in the future these differences can be dealt with in the same harmonious and constructive spirit of this board meeting."

If the leaders say, "Now we have power, and we'll do whatever we want to do," there will be trouble, Gunnells said. But if they are "fair and try to motivate this kind of harmony" there will be peace.

Mark Wingfield writes for Southwestern Seminary

MC's second oldest alumnus dies at age 98

Joseph H. Hamilton Sr., 98, died Oct. 24, in Graceland Convalescent Home at Oxford. Services were Sunday at Waller Funeral Home, Oxford.

A retired Baptist minister of 35 years, he was a member of First Baptist Church of Tallulah, La. He was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ferriday, La., for 25 years. He was graduated in 1914 from Mississippi College.

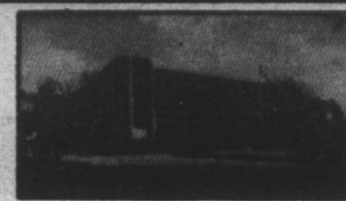
He was the second-oldest-living alumnus of Mississippi College. He was a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, where he received a master of theology degree. He was a veteran of World War I, and served in the U.S. Army Cavalry.

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Mary Hamilton Purcell of Wallingford, Pa.; son, Joseph H. Hamilton Jr. of Nashville; sister, Mrs. Mary Tatum of Taylor; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Homecomings

Macedonia (Lauderdale): Nov. 15; morning message by Danny Moss, pastor, 11 a.m., followed by noon meal in fellowship hall, and a gospel singing featuring The Watchmen, 1 p.m.

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Offer not valid in California.

Conference is designed to help create atmosphere for spiritual awakening



Ron and Patricia Owens

A conference designed to help create an atmosphere for spiritual awakening in the last quarter of this century will take place Nov. 19-21 in Jackson.



Drummond

Principal speakers include Lewis Drummond, Manley Beasley, Glenn

Sheppard, Robert Hamblin, and Ray Maddox.

Drummond is Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Beasley is a revivalist and conference speaker



Hamblin from Euless, Tex.; Sheppard is president of International Prayer Ministries and formerly with the Home Mission Board's Office of Spiritual Awakening which is co-sponsoring the meeting along with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism for the HMB; and Maddox is an Atlanta layman and former convict.

Musicians will be Ron and Patricia Owens, concert artist is from Fort Worth.

Giving testimony to the power of prayer to change one's life will be Duane Blue, Mission Service Corps volunteer in Houston, Tex.

Among the topics to be discussed will be "What is Victory?" "When We Can Expect Revival," and "When We

Can Know Revival has Come," by Beasley; "The Anatomy of a Spiritual Awakening" and "When to Expect a Spiritual Awakening" by Drummond.

Prayer groups will be formed following the sessions.

The program begins at 7 p.m., Nov. 19 following registration and the opening of a Baptist Book Store 4-7 p.m. The conference ends at noon, Nov. 21. Advance registration and housing information is available from the Home Mission Board's Office of Spiritual Awakening, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA, 30367-5601.

Off the Record

The teacher was explaining to her class how Sir Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravity.

"Newton was sitting on the ground looking at a tree," she told the class. "An apple fell on his head, and from that he discovered gravitation. Isn't that wonderful?"

"It sure is," piped a small lad in the back of the room. "And if he'd been sittin' in a school lookin' at a book he wouldn't have discovered nothin'."

Midwestern trustee reject requiring faculty statements

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — An effort to require seminary administrators and faculty members to submit written statements of their theological positions regarding the Bible was defeated by trustees of Midwestern Baptist Seminary during their Oct. 19-20 fall meeting.

The trustees unanimously adopted a recommendation by their executive committee to have the trustee instructional committee "study carefully the recommendations of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, to receive and consider input from the trustees and to work closely with the seminary president and trustee chairman in formulating and recommending appropriate action and/or response for consideration by trustees" at their April 11-12, 1988 meeting.

By a vote of 19-8, trustees tabled the effort by Jack D. Amis, a medical doctor from Hopkinsville, Ky., to require "the president, his administrative staff and members of the faculty each provide in writing a statement of his theological position with regard to the Baptist Faith and Message statement regarding the Bible as being truth without any mixture of error and give his position in regard to the examples of diversity of opinion, 1-4, under Section 1, 'Sources of the Controversy' in the Peace Committee's report."

Those examples state that Adam and Eve were real people, that the miracles of the Bible are historical events, that biblical books were written by the attributed authors, and that historical narratives in the Bible are accurate.

For more than 50 minutes trustees

debated Amis' motion. After voting to divide the motion into two parts, the trustees eventually passed an amended motion declaring the board's intent to "allow adequate time" to explore the Peace Committee report and the seminary's response during the April meeting.

The section requesting the written statements was postponed until after the trustee executive committee could bring its report which also included its proposal for dealing with the SBC Peace Committee report.

Midwestern President Milton Ferguson reminded the group that every member of the faculty signed the Baptist Faith and Message Statement when each was elected to the faculty. He told the trustees that following the Southern Baptist Convention in June, the faculty voluntarily communicated to the president their willingness to reaffirm their commitment to teach and live by that statement of faith. Ferguson also cautioned the trustees against any action that could communicate suspicion or mistrust of faculty and staff.

Trustee Graydon K. Kitchens of Minden, La., contended the issue before the trustees was "whether we

want to let the Baptist Faith and Message be our statement of faith to which we must adhere in order to teach at our seminary or whether we want to let the Baptist Faith and Message plus a few pet credos and doctrinal statements be the standard by which we operate."

After defeating an attempt to refer the matter to the instructional committee, the trustees voted 19-8 to table Amis' motion matters.

In response to a question concerning criticisms of the seminary given to trustees, Ferguson said questions should be referred to him so they can be handled through proper channels. He assured the trustees that right before every trustee meeting, they will receive complaints.

"I used to think these were coincidental. Now I know better. There are those who deliberately attempt to sow distrust and suspicion between the trustees, the faculty and the administration," he charged.

Participating in the preparation of this article were Marty Blankenship and Pam Parry, Midwestern Seminary, and Bob Terry, editor of the Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Revival Dates

Midway, 5609 Clinton Blvd., Jackson: Nov. 8-11; 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, evangelist; Bill Wilkinson, music director; David Wilkinson, pastor.

Sand Hill (Greene): 115th anniversary, Nov. 15; regular worship service, 10:45 a.m. with former pastor, E. L.

Scruggs, preaching; meal served at noon in fellowship hall; other former members on program will be Mrs. Ray Minton, James E. Walley, and Reese Ishee; guest soloist will be Kathy Wade, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Wade; no afternoon or evening service is planned.

Homecomings

Horseshoe (Tchula): Nov. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m.; followed with lunch in fellowship hall; J. C. Carr, former pastor, guest speaker; afternoon singing featuring Ginny Neal of Carrollton; Don Riley, pastor.

Parkway, Natchez: Nov. 8, 35th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; Church Training, 6 p.m.; evening worship, 7:15 p.m.; Randy Turner, pastor.

Byram Church, Jackson: Nov. 8; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m.; Ray Mann, guest speaker; Pete Bates, music; lunch in Family Life Center; musical program presented by the Gospel Classics Quartet following lunch; no night service; Ken Harrison, pastor.

Bethlehem, Pinola: Nov. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m.; lunch served in fellowship hall; Jerome McLendon, pastor.

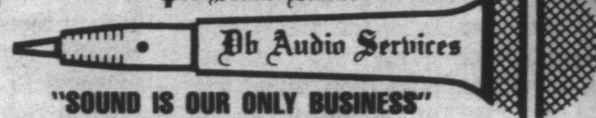
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Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Dan Carter Hall

Dan Hall was one of the most appreciative people I ever met. He was quick to say thank you, and to write a letter of appreciation for even the smallest favor. He encouraged churches to express appreciation for musicians who had served a long time. One of his dreams (his mind was always busy with dreams for the future, into the next century or so) was a compilation of biographical facts about the "old-time, long-time" musicians in Mississippi.

I'd known Dan since he came to work at the Baptist Building on July 15, 1964, and as he did for hundreds of others, he made me feel I was on his list of special friends.

Someone told me that when Dan died in his sleep at Wiggins, he had left his hymnbook open at "When Little Children Pray." He was to have sung that as a solo in chapel this week.

I miss Dan. He was my neighbor in Clinton and occasionally rode home from work with me. I miss him in the chapel, in the Sky Room, in his office, on the elevator, in the kitchen at coffee break time. I look up to search for his cheerful, good-natured — and sometimes mischievous — grin. And it isn't there.

Dan was not one to seek praise for himself. But once when I interviewed him, he shared some anecdotes.

In September of his fifth year he started to school. When he trotted out to the school bus, the driver teased, "Why, Dan Carter! You're too little to go to school! Don't you know those teachers up at the school will GET you?" Dan turned around fast and ran home crying. His Aunt Nona, who lived with the Halls then, knew this would never do, so she took him by the hand and walked with him the two miles to school.

His dad was song director at Big Level Church near Wiggins. Dan started playing the piano there for Sunday School when he was 12 and for worship services when he was 14. One Sunday morning he played a violin solo. He suffered through it, and so



Dan Hall

did his audience. He vowed that would be his first and last violin solo at church. Later he declared, "I couldn't take any more, and they couldn't either!"

The day Pearl Harbor was bombed, he was walking a footlog on crutches. In eighth grade he developed osteomyelitis, and walked on crutches for four years.

The December before his 16th birthday was one of his saddest, for that month his brother, David, a school bus driver, was killed driving home from senior play practice, a little while before he was to graduate from high school. Two years later, Dan's mother died. But Dan was tough and not easily defeated. Later, he entered Mississippi College with only \$14.00 in his pocket, all the money he owned.

After graduation from New Orleans Seminary he moved to Nashville to become associational music consultant with the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

His eight years there gave him insights into the field of church music and helped to prepare him for what lay ahead as director of Mississippi's Church Music Department.

But Dan told me the most important

thing he did during his years in Nashville was to meet and marry Mera Cannon. They met at a church choir banquet at Belmont Heights Baptist Church. She was associate editor of adult quarterlies at the Baptist Sunday School Board. He proposed on Halloween night, 1959.

Dan was not just a dreamer. He was a hard worker, who knew how to motivate people, so he saw dream after dream turn into reality. In fact, I think his staff in the Church Music Department got a little frustrated sometimes. While they were hard at work getting one dream on the way, his creative mind churned out a dozen new ideas to begin right away! Yet they wanted to do these things for him, because he expressed for each of them a special quality of love and concern.

He was well-respected among his peers. Because of his insight, creativity, and forethought, many of his ideas are being used in other states. One of those is the music specialists program. Another is his development of creative workshop brochures, encouraging new and different types of worship experiences. Church Music, RFD, a compilation of music materials for the small church, is about to go into its fourth printing. Danny Jones, associational music specialist, plans to write a new preface for it, about Dan.

Dan believed in giving praise to people, but first he believed in giving praise to God. Last winter at Garaywa I ate lunch beside him, and he was talking about the importance of praising God through creative worship. As I remember that, I know he would have approved of the memorial service at First Baptist Church, Clinton, on Oct. 19. From beginning to end, it was a service of praise to the Father. The most triumphant part was at the close when Dan's five children, Randall, Daniel, Mera, Verby, and Rowland, sang their dad's favorite hymn, "Rejoice, the Lord Is King."

Board employee's husband dies

James H. Russell, 55, of 2751 Brookwood Drive, Jackson, died Oct. 31, at Hinds General Hospital. Services were held 11 a.m., Nov. 3, at Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, where he was a member.

A native of Epworth, Ga., Mr. Russell had lived in Jackson since August 1945. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and was employed with the U.S. Postal Service for 25 years.

Mr. Russell is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ruby Nell White Russell, employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; sons, Terry Russell of Tallahassee, Fla., Barry Russell and Ronnie Russell, both of Jackson; daughter, Mrs. Kathy Catshot of Jackson; mother; two brothers; three sisters; and three grandchildren.

Dan Hall was a gifted man

By Irene Martin

Dan Hall was a gifted man. If he ever said, "Let me share this with you . . ." you were in for at least 45 minutes of his dreams for church music in Mississippi extending into the 21st century. Sometimes you could keep up, sometimes you could not. He was a dreamer, but he was so much more because he put wings on his dreams.

He was a gifted man because he implemented his dreams with people. Dan surrounded himself with capable, talented people and then gave them freedom to plan and create with their special abilities. One of his committees might have 30 people on it ranging from a full-time minister of music from a large church to a volunteer pianist from a small, rural church. The meeting would begin at 10 a.m. with a blank chalkboard. By mid-afternoon another one of his visions was well on its way toward being fulfilled.

Dan was gifted because he made everyone feel special. He accepted each musician for what he was. He recognized the good qualities and overlooked the inadequacies; but he always expected the best you could give and, indeed, got more from you than you, yourself, knew you had. As someone said in his memorial service, there was a place in Dan's heart that belonged to nobody but you. He rejoiced with you in your achievements and agonized with you when you were hurting. Many times he would enlist another person in intercessory prayer for a church musician in need.

Dan Hall loved the small church. He often quoted the statistic that more than 50 percent of all Southern Baptist churches have less than 200 members. One of his projects, Church Music, RFD, focused attention on the small church and received world-wide recognition and use.

Dan Hall had a deep appreciation for instrumentalists. He was so supportive of their ministries. Under his leadership church accompanists were acknowledged as worship leaders and were included in the planning of worship services. With his influence many began receiving better compensation for their years of training and experience.

Dan was a gifted man because he

foresaw the day when the church would have a "Gifts Committee" to replace the nominating committee. His dream was that with the leadership of the Holy Spirit the church would have all positions filled with people uniquely gifted and called for those places of service. No longer would a nominating committee call for volunteers to "fill a slot."

In the past few years Dan's heart was burdened with returning the worship service to the Old Testament concept of praise and adoration of the one, true, holy God. He felt we had become performance-oriented and that the members of the congregation had become spectators rather than participants. He had a gift for putting together services which made one feel he had truly worshipped God. At Music Leadership week this summer at Gulfshore, his dream was put into action with three entirely different worship services: a liturgical service, a traditional service, and a spontaneous worship service which he called "Body Life Gathering."

Dan Hall was not a "program" person, per se. Rather than design programs and go to the churches, he did just the opposite. He went to the churches, saw the needs, and designed the programs to meet those needs. His last completed project was the Special Music Packet for Bold New Growth Mississippi. When he began to develop this program, he got on the elevator with a musician, and, as was his style, said, "Let me share this with you . . . perhaps you'd like to come up with some music for it." He was excited about Bold New Growth Mississippi. He felt it was Mississippi's opportunity to reach out in boldness to lost people. For his part, it would be through music.

When Dan died his hymnal was open on a desk nearby. He was probably planning a worship service.

Dan Hall, the gifted man, is gone. His dreams and his visions live on.

Irene Martin of the Baptist Record staff, is serving the Church Music Department as a keynote clinician. She was a member of the committee that laid the plans for Church Music, RFD and has been associated with the Church Music Department since 1974.

October gifts enable convention to stay on target

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Cooperative Program gifts from Mississippi Baptist Convention churches in October totaled \$1,534,905, enabling the convention to remain on target for the first ten months of the year, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Total giving by the nearly 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches through

their unified giving program was \$15,264,513. This amount is \$139,513 over the pro rata amount needed during the year to completely subscribe the budget.

The 1987 budget, which helps fund in-state and national Southern Baptist causes, is \$18,150,000. Only \$2,885,487 is needed in the next two months to make the 1987 budget.

Devotional

God's love

By Fannie Cothran

The pastor called the children down to the front for the children's sermon (a level adults can understand). A small boy jumped upon the pastor's lap, threw his arms around him, and gave him a bear hug. Immediately the biblical admonition, "except you become as little children" (Matt. 18:3) flashed into my mind. Little Children: trusting, lowly, forgiving, loving.

The Christian's love is supposed to be God's love shared through him. Too often love is conditional. Love the pastor if he preaches what you want to hear, visits as you think he should, acts the way you think he ought, spends his money or the church's money according to your standard. God's command to his followers to love is not conditional. There's no "if they," you love. God knows that unconditional love is the most rewarding experience of life and can only be realized in Christ Jesus.

Since it is his love, I must not limit it just to my family, friends, or the people like me. God's love is for all: the ugly, the despised, the down and outs, the undeserving. After all, God loved me first, a sinner. God's love is inexhaustible, so his love through me just keeps flowing in the face of insults, rejection, enmity, if it's truly his love. His love never fails. Even though I may never see the victory in loving, I can accept it as already overcoming because Jesus teaches, "love never fails." Aren't there some circumstances in your relationships that need his love? Can it flow through you?

Fannie Cothran is mayor at Lexington.

Large trust sends pledges over \$30 million

"A \$200,000 trust, created by an anonymous donor for The Baptist Children's Village pushed The Mississippi Mission over \$30 million earlier this week. Mississippi Baptists achieved a record-breaking pledge total of \$30,038,616.13," reported campaign chairman, Harry Vickery of Greenville.

"This is a landmark achievement for the Baptists and the respective institutions of our state," said Vickery. "Mississippi Baptists can celebrate at this level of victory."

He continued, "We are waiting on the response from the remaining churches across the state. We are well under way to reaching our \$40,000,000 victory!"

Under the campaign plan, churches have until the end of this year to establish their level of commitment to The Mississippi Mission campaign. Churches then report their decisions to the convention board via a letter of intent and/or Declaration of Commitment.

Each church identifies the amount and terms of its pledge over the five-year pledge period beginning January, 1988. A pledge spread over a five-year period enables each church to realize a larger commitment to the campaign objectives. "In this endowment campaign," explain-

ed Vickery, "only the interest earned off of the money given by the donors is spent. The principal or original gift remains intact and is never spent. Until Jesus returns, the endowment provides scholarships, faculty support, facility maintenance, and program enrichment at each of the four institutions."

Already the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has put the money contributed by the 964 donors to work. The Foundation sends monthly checks from the interest earned to Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, William Carey College, and The Baptist Children's Village as specified by the donors.

Prior to the Mississippi Mission campaign, the total endowment levels of the four institutions totaled approximately \$9 million. With the \$30 million recently obtained, the total endowment has increased 4½ times.

Aubrey Boone, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, stressed the planned giving approach. "Many churches and individuals will realize tremendous opportunities to shape and mold the future of Christian higher education and child care through this campaign. Each church should take time to educate its members on the importance of leaving portions of their estates through

bequests and trusts."

Boone spent more than 30 years as a banker in Winona prior to his accepting the position as the head of the foundation.

"Often, tremendous tax savings can be realized if donors would plan their charitable gifts. Long-term capital gains tax can be substantially reduced if the appreciated property is transferred to the charity correctly," said Boone.

The Foundation provides counsel to

prospective donors who are considering gifts to any Baptist institution.

"Every Christian should have a will. It is wise stewardship and planning to consider using resources God has given to fund living memorials long after the donor dies," He said.

"If a person dies without a will, much of his estate could be tied up for years in the courts with federal and estate taxes taking the biggest bite. Why not utilize the will to carry out God's work on earth through our Bap-

tist institutions? It is truly wise giving," said Boone.

Any gifts made through the Foundation will be counted toward the \$40 million Mississippi Mission goal. Donors should call Boone at 968-3800 or consult with their attorney before making a major gift through the Foundation.

Said Vickery, "We accepted the faith challenging goal of \$40 million. We will see success. Mississippi Baptists are making sure of that."

"Revival at seminary could spark renewal"

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Revival at Southwestern Seminary could ignite spiritual renewal among all Southern Baptists, John Sullivan told the seminary family during fall revival services in early October on campus here.

Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., preached at the six meetings. Michael Wierick, Broadmoor's music minister, led the music. Students, faculty, and staff filled Truett Auditorium for each service.

The Southern Baptist Convention

has never needed revival more than it does today, said Sullivan, a member of the SBC Peace Committee and Executive Committee. "In my own estimation, in my very humble, but quite accurate opinion, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary gives us the greatest hope of revival and renewal."

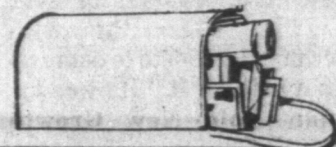
"It is here in this place. It is here among this faculty. It is here in this administration that I sense a hunger for the things of God. It is here in this student assembly that I sense a

hunger for the things of God," Sullivan said.

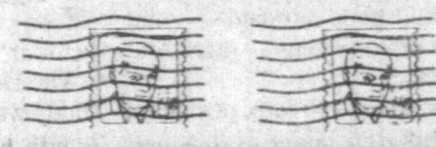
Sullivan challenged the seminarians to become "God's uncommon people" by modeling the early church. Speaking from Acts 4:31-33, Sullivan pointed out three traits 20th century Christians must embrace.

The first trait, Sullivan said, is an uncommon prayer life. "How long has it been since you were shaken in the place where you pray?" he asked.

The second trait is an uncommon (Continued on page 12)



Letters to the editor



Sharing festivities

Editor:

Mama T's Restaurant is a new restaurant in Oxford, Miss. Their grand opening day was celebrated on Sept. 18.

As a part of their grand opening festivities, the owners celebrated by contributing 25 percent of a person's bill to the Baptist Children's Village. I commend the establishment for sharing in this way and believe others can follow their example.

Debbie Hughes
Water Valley

Vocational evangelists

Editor:

God has been gracious to call out many vocational evangelists. For the most part, these servants of the Lord are well equipped, sweet spirited, church building, and fellowship strengthening men and women. He has given these to the Body of Believers for edification.

It is regrettable when one of God's ministers falls into sin's trap and has his ministry ruined. Such a failure has a ripple effect and touches many individuals and churches. Sometimes it even alters our attitudes and creates a negative spirit toward all evangelists.

A good and positive word needs to come from us about the vocational evangelist. We know God calls some to be evangelists. These called ministers will faithfully serve the Lord Jesus. They are deserving of the

pastor and local church supporting them with prayers and invitations. Let's spread the good news about our fellow laborers who are vocational evangelists.

Johnny Walker, pastor
First Church, Lucedale

PAC actions disturbing

Editor:

I found your article on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, printed October 22, page 5, very disturbing. The BJC conscientiously supports Baptist commitment to the separation of church and state, as well as providing much-needed contact between the SBC and other Baptist groups. The SBC voted in June to continue its support of the BJC, yet now I read that the Public Affairs Committee has voted to recommend that the SBC sever ties to the BJC because of a lack of accountability — ridiculous!

The PAC came to the BJC and demanded: 1) copies of all personal and official correspondence for the past three years, 2) copies of expense accounts, and 3) a staff evaluation. As to the first request, I doubt the members of the PAC themselves would turn over copies of confidential personal correspondence to another committee; it is ludicrous to expect anyone else to do so.

The second request is equally insulting. The BJC finances are examined regularly and they have proven if anything parsimonious in expense accounts for the staff. In spite of the unreasonableness of this request, the PAC was promised full cooperation in the matter of expense accounts the

day after it was requested.

Finally, the BJC has just finished undergoing a year-long evaluation of its staff and procedures in which the Committee was rated very highly. For the PAC to demand a new staff evaluation now is at best ridiculous and at worst a deliberate attempt to harass.

It should be obvious from the recent decision of the PAC to flaunt Baptist doctrine and practice by endorsing a political candidate — Robert Bork — that at least some members of the PAC do not want separation of church and state in our country. It is a sad day for Southern Baptists when one committee votes to punish a faithful group of dedicated workers because those workers stand firm in protecting our Baptist heritage.

Timothy John Turnham, Pastor
Seminary Baptist Church

A closer look

Editor:

The guest opinion in your October 22 issue, "Taking a closer look at Halloween," seems like an overreaction to me. Brother Welch argues against celebrating Halloween because of its pagan origins. He notes correctly that October 31 was chosen to coincide with the Christian holiday of All Saints Day on November 1.

This stand against Halloween reminds me of the Jehovah's Witness stand against Christmas, since the date of December 25 was chosen to coincide with a pagan festival, and some pagan traditions such as the yule log, mistletoe, etc. carry over into the observance of Christmas today. I am also reminded of a certain pastor

who moved to New Orleans and preached against Mardi Gras, but then celebrated Halloween, and his members accused him of hypocrisy.

I would imagine that Brother Welch is opposed to Mardi Gras as well as Halloween. But those who have Christmas trees are continuing a pagan custom of tree worship.

My point is that it becomes extremely difficult to be consistent in the position Brother Welch takes. We will do more good by taking a positive approach. And he made some positive suggestions in his essay, especially about giving tracts to children who are trick or treating.

Bob Rogers, pastor
Calvary Church
Gloster

Cease devouring

Editor:

Again Southern Baptists have made the news in New England and again that news reflects the popery of tradition that far too many of my brothers and sisters are confusing with gospel. Yes, we made page two of the Providence Evening Bulletin: "Baptists Expel Church Hiring Woman Pastor." The story covered the action of the Shelby (Tennessee) Association's recent action against Prescott Memorial Baptist Church of Memphis. I support the historical position that a local association is autonomous, and therefore can determine whom they will seat as messengers. I, also, recognize that traditionally Southern Baptist churches have not called women to serve

as pastors. However, when local associations seek to impose the traditions of sinful humanity rather than being responsive to the Living Word to determine their policies of fellowship with sister churches, we all suffer.

Within the week, I learned of the "take-over" of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary by those who would call themselves "conservatives." I, along with numerous other pastors and laity ministering in Southern Baptist affiliated churches in New England, grieve not only for the faculty of that fine institution, but also for the negative impact this action, and others like it, is having on our ability to share the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ in the communities where we serve you.

We must cease devouring one another. The endless power struggles, unethical twisting of words, and unbiblical drawing of lines of fellowship does countless harm to the spread of the gospel. Maybe in parts of the country which have a Baptist church on every other block, you think you can afford the high cost of bickering — after all it is "Baptist tradition" to fight and split.

For years, I have heard my fellow pastors calling us to be like the New Testament church. I had no idea that they meant the church torn asunder by the Judaizers. If the New Testament church we are to emulate is the Corinth of Paul's letters, or Ephesus of John's revelation, then we have arrived. God help us!

David Waugh, pastor
Grace Baptist Church
Cranston, R.I.

Houston Baptists oppose endorsement of candidates

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — In response to the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee's recent endorsement of Robert Bork for Supreme Court Justice, Houston-area Baptists approved a resolution affirming the "historic tradition of non-endorsement" of political candidates and judicial nominees by Baptist churches and denominational entities.

In spite of a failed attempt to table the matter and a question of parliamentary procedure, the resolution was approved 106-60 at the 147th annual meeting of Union Baptist

Association at Westbury Baptist Church in Houston.

The resolution was submitted by John Leland Berg, pastor of West Oaks Baptist Church in Houston, was the fifth and final resolution approved at the meeting of the largest association in the Southern Baptist Convention, with 390 congregations and more than 250,000 members.

Other resolutions expressed appreciation to the host church; noted concern about the initial refusal of KHOU-TV to televise anti-gambling sermons by Ed Young, pastor of

Houston's Second Baptist Church; registered opposition to pari-mutuel gambling and pledged support for efforts to defeat the measure on the Nov. 3 ballot; and expressed appreciation to Southern Baptist women for their contributions to Baptist churches and the cause of Christ.

Berg's resolution pointed to the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee's endorsement of Bork and noted, "Although the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies have historically taken positions on legislative issues, they have traditionally refused to endorse political candidates and/or judicial nominees."

The resolution said endorsements may "hamper our gospel witness" and contribute "to the divisiveness within our convention." It also expressed concern that "an individual so endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention and/or one of its agencies may hold to or shift to positions that Southern Baptists traditionally have opposed."

"Be it resolved," the resolution concluded, "that we encourage the Union Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention and their agencies to honor and uphold our historic tradition of non-endorsement of individuals for political offices or judicial service."

After the resolution was introduced at the associational meeting, Paul Pressler, a Houston judge, spoke against it. He then moved to table the measure. The motion to table was approved by a simple majority, 82-70.

However, Moderator Mario Hernandez of Emmanuel Latin American Baptist Church in Houston, in consultation with Parliamentarian D. Tommy Harrison of Richmond Plaza Baptist Church in Bellaire, ruled, based on Pressler's remarks, Pressler's true intent was to limit debate, not table the resolution for future consideration, and thus the measure would require a two-thirds majority.

After further discussion, the resolution was brought to a vote and approved. Pressler called for a point of order, appealing to the section of Robert's Rules of Order concerning "the mo-

tion to lay on the table," but he was ruled out of order.

"It was divisive. We did not have the facts before us," Pressler said later, explaining his reasons for seeking to table the resolution. He protested the decision of the chair, saying "there is no way under any circumstances" that the ruling made was in keeping with proper parliamentary procedure.

Quoting pages 177 and 183 of the 1981 Scott, Foresman and Company edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, Parliamentarian Harrison defended the ruling. Citing the section on "misuses of the motion," Harrison said a motion to table cannot properly be used "with the intention of either killing an embarrassing question without a direct vote, or of suppressing a question without debate." He went on to note, "Only a two-thirds vote can rightfully suppress a main question without allowing free debate."

"Clearly he wanted to limit debate," Harrison said, noting the remarks Pressler made prior to the motion to table.

Berg was gratified by the association's affirmation of the "non-endorsement" resolution.

"As an individual pastor, I do not publicly endorse individuals for office or appointment because I realize it would hurt my Christian witness with people who oppose the endorsed individual," said Berg. "This was a good example of grassroots, conservative Southern Baptists showing their support for a historic Baptist position."

Ken Camp writes for Texas Baptists.



First, Gautier, dedicates organ

First Church, Gautier, recently dedicated a new digital computer organ in its auditorium. The organ is equivalent to a 30-Rank pipe organ. Pictured, at the organ is the guest organist, Mrs. Dot Pray, keyboard specialist with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Mrs. Pray presented several selections in the morning worship service as a part of the dedication service. She also conducted a class for interested musicians on Sunday afternoon. Also pictured are Mrs. Chris Jenkins, church organist, and Chris Jenkins, minister of music and youth.

1,000 massacred in the Sudan after denying Muslim faith

KHARTOUM, Sudan (EP) — According to a 33-page report filed March 28 by Khartoum University professors Ushari Mahmud and Suleyman Ali Baldo (both Moslem), more than 1,000 Dinka citizens including women and children were massacred in the western Sudan town of Dein this year.

Violence erupted there after about 25 Christian Dinka worshippers were driven from their evening prayer service by a mob of Rizeigat Muslims who carried spears, axes, and Soviet-made Klashnikov guns. That evening a handful of the people were killed and homes were burned.

The next morning as some of the Dein citizens were boarding a train to evacuate the town, hundreds of armed Rizeigats attacked the railroad

station, shooting, stabbing, and clubbing them to death. Burning mattresses were heaped on top of huddled Dinkas. By evening, more than 1,000 were dead.

The Rizeigats are an old warrior tribe from western Sudan who reportedly hold hostile feelings toward the Dinkas, non-Muslim blacks who call themselves Arabs and are in the area as refugees from the south. The Rizeigats are not associated with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Since 1983 when Sudan was officially declared an Islamic republic and Islamic Shariat law was imposed on the country's citizens, dozens of pastors have been killed and many churches destroyed.

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Committee rejects hymn

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — The committee revising the hymnal of the United Methodist Church has decided not to adopt a hymn that refers to God as "Mother." This latest decision in the continuing hymnal-revision saga was made out of concern over possible negative reaction by conservative members of the denomination.

"Let's not shoot ourselves in the foot as we near the finish line," said one committee member before the group voted 11-10 to exclude the hymn "Strong Mother God."

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FMB affirms policies on divorce, seminaries

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A 142-year-old rule against appointing divorced people as foreign missionaries and a 6-month-old policy opening up appointment to graduates of any regionally accredited seminary were reaffirmed during the Oct. 12-14 meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Both actions were voted by the board's Mission Management and Personnel Committee, the 42-member group that also gives preliminary approval to all candidates appointed by the board.

In other actions the board approved a lean \$167.8 million budget for 1988, received information that missionary John David Hopper had been elected as president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and said "no" to a Southern Baptist Convention Southern Baptist Convention messenger who wanted it to publish 10-year statistics and reasons why people are turned down for missionary appointment.

Responding to a 1987 motion made at the SBC that the statistics and reasons be published in the convention's annual report, the board said it did not view the material on non-appointment as suitable for the report "due to limited space, multiple assignments and other important and exciting items to report." The board motion added, however, that anyone interested in such statistics may make a personal request to the board for the information.

In reaffirming its stand against considering divorced people for missionary appointment, the board was reinforcing a stand it has followed since the board was founded in 1845. Last April, a trustee asked questions about the policy, and the board spent considerable time in dialogue about it in August but took no vote.

On Oct. 13 the committee considering personnel matters, which includes half the membership of the board, briefly discussed the divorce issue again and then voted to reaffirm its official policy on divorce.

Despite the frequency of divorce in this country and the fact that some Baptist churches today have divorced people in leadership positions, the board noted that in addition to the biblical concerns about divorce there are distinctive elements overseas that justify great care in dealing with this question. These include the need for a clear presentation of the Christian ideal in marriage, convictions among national Christians in other countries, and stress factors overseas that require missionaries to be unusually strong in personal qualities, emotional maturity, and family life.

A few exceptions have been made

for Mission Service Corps personnel based on careful study in individual circumstances and the fields where they would be serving.

The action reaffirming the new policy on seminary requirements was taken because trustees, when they took the action last April, voted to review it every six months for two years.

Also, during the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention messenger Presnell H. Wood, editor of the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, moved that the board reinstate its previous requirement that career missionary candidates attend one of the six Southern Baptist-owned seminaries for at least part of their seminary preparation. This motion was referred to the Foreign Mission Board for study.

In the past the board had required that career missionary candidates attend one of the six seminaries for at least a year. The action in April dropped this requirement, which opened the door to qualified candidates from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and other accredited seminaries without attendance at a SBC seminary.

Before this decision, the board had appointed Mid-America graduates as well as graduates of other accredited seminaries but had stipulated they must take 26 hours, or one year's study, at one of the six official SBC seminaries.

In April, Parks said the new policy "grew out of a desire on the part of growing numbers of board trustees" to appoint graduates of Mid-America without requiring this additional study. In an overview study of the whole appointment process, Parks said, the board's staff agreed upon "appropriate Southern Baptist identity" as the crux of the matter.

In defining this identity, the board requires that candidates give evidence of "meaningful membership and participation in a Southern Baptist church." But in the new guidelines the board added the concept of: "commitment to and identification with Southern Baptists through fellowship, prayer support, giving, cooperation, and service."

Under the new policy, the board may consider qualified candidates from any seminary whose accreditation is "commensurate with that of our Southern Baptist theological institutions."

Trustees also approved a recommendation transferring relationships with Cuban Baptists from the Home Mission Board to the Foreign Mission Board. The HMB passed an identical resolution at its meeting earlier in October.



Fine tuning set for BTN

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE — During the next few months, the Baptist Telecommunication Network will be fine-tuned to move toward an increased usefulness to Southern Baptists.

After more than three years of providing video education resources to the denomination, BTN is planning to offer numerous programs and changes based on subscribers' suggestions, according to Joe Denney, manager of the telecommunications department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

One area of change will be the scheduling of 15 to 20 percent of total programming during the 1988-89 year based on "market demand," or popular subjects which have been frequently requested.

The area of inspiration/entertainment is expected to be a popular one where additions will be made, Denney said.

Discussions are in progress now with entertainers and preachers to offer a few hours of inspiration/entertainment as early as the spring of 1988, with regularly scheduled programming beginning in the summer of 1988.

Other areas for requested programming relate to personal enrichment, Bible study, and work with children.

Research has shown that the programs used most often in churches are those which aid in preparing Sunday School lessons. Some programs which are not as widely used will be dropped to add frequently requested programs, Denney said.

Free satellite receiving equipment will continue to be available to churches which sign a five-year subscription contract. Annual subscription rates for churches range from a minimum of \$396 for churches with 149 or fewer members to a maximum of \$2,096 for churches with more than 1,920 members. The rates are based on resident membership.

A new commission arrangement has been implemented to pay \$100 to board employees, state convention employees, directors of missions and church staff members who deliver a signed subscription contract from a church to the telecommunications department.

This year, the BTN associational rate structure ranges from \$696 to \$3,756. That associational rate will be increased by approximately 20 percent annually through 1992.

Information regarding programming, rates, commissions, or subscriptions to BTN is available from the Telecommunications Department, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234.

Jim Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.

The heart of the fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of the wise man is in his heart. — Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac for 1733

Thursday, November 5, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11



Briar Hill, Florence, recently had ground breaking for a new educational building. It is to be a pre-school, children, and youth building. The building committee is Grady McRaney, chairman, John N. Johnson, Jr., Calvin Warren, Vick Hasie, and Jimmie Harrison. The architect is Brumfield and Hopton and the general contractor is Beck Land Corporation. Wilson Winstead, pastor.

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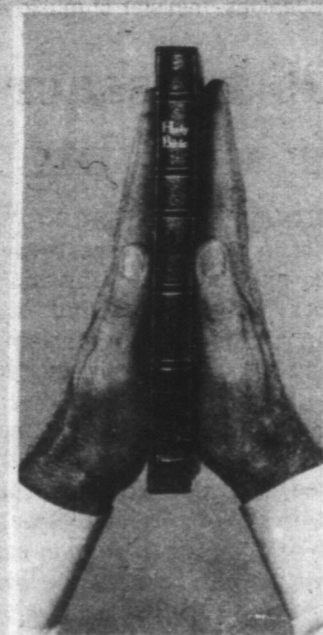
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221-8-D404

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Nov. 9 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Baptist Building; 10 a.m.
- Nov. 9-11 Mississippi Baptist Convention; FBC, Jackson
- Nov. 11 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Baptist Building; immediately following convention.
- Nov. 13-14 State Church Media Library Workshop; Woodland Hills BC, Jackson; 1 p.m., 13th-Noon, 14th (SS)
- Nov. 13-15 International Student Conference, Garaywa; 4 p.m., 13-noon, 15 (SW)



Pastor gets wheelbarrow ride

Calhoun Church at Hot Coffee reached a Sunday School attendance goal of 100 on Oct. 4 and exceeded it with a total of 129. The previous record had been 87. Donnie Keyes, church member, in answer to a promise that he'd push the pastor, Rubin Herrin, half a mile in a wheelbarrow if the goal were met, did

so (see photo at left). Keyes had agreed to take a pie in the face if attendance exceeded 100 (see photo at right). If the attendance had been less than 100, Keyes had planned to push the pie in the pastor's face instead.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

Ashamed of her dad

Question

My dad is in a severe depression. He won't do anything around the house or take any responsibility except to go to work. He just lies around the house in his underwear. I'm ashamed to have my friends over, and I don't even want to talk to him. All the responsibilities of the house fall on me, and sometimes I just have to get away because I can't stand it anymore. This gets me in trouble with my mom. She wants to know why I can't just accept him and learn to live with him. But I can't. I won't. It isn't fair. What can I do?

Answer

You're right, it isn't fair. But then, lots of things in life aren't fair, but we have to learn to live with them anyway. This doesn't necessarily mean that we just accept them, however. You and your mom have evidently accepted the idea that there are only two choices: to run from the problem or just allow it to continue. But there may be some things you can do to deal with the problem in a positive, constructive way.

First, do some research and evaluation. What's going on in your dad's life? Is he having health problems? Often depression is linked to a physical disorder or chemical imbalance. Is he under special pressure at work or in other aspects of his life? Has he been through some grief experience, such as losing a family member or even missing out on a promotion or something else that was important to him? Has he just passed a significant birthday, such as the 40th? If you can find out why he feels so unhappy, you'll have a clue as to how to help him overcome those feelings.

Second, try to communicate with him about his feelings. Don't attack or try to make him feel guilty or useless. That's probably a large part of his problem already. Let him know that you care and that you are trying to understand. Assure him that you are willing to listen and to help in any way you can — perhaps by planning some special activity or excursion together.

Finally, encourage him to get some help. If he is clinically depressed, it will take the help of a trained therapist to deal with it. If he is willing to get help for himself, you might approach him on the basis of your concern for the family. Ask him to go with you and your mother for family counseling in order to strengthen your relationships with each other. Through openness, understanding, and genuine concern, you may be able to break through the negative cycle of hopelessness and despair.

Former Record employee dies

Mrs. Prudie Virginia Searcy, 78, of 2326 Hickory Drive, Jackson, died Oct. 29, 1987, in Hinds General Hospital. Services were held 1 p.m. Oct. 31 at Baldwin-Lee Funeral Home.

Mrs. Searcy lived in Puckett before moving to Jackson in 1951. A member of Westview Baptist Church, she retired from The Baptist Record in 1970 after working five years full-time and 12 years part-time in The Baptist Record's mailing department.

She was the widow of Romulus Mack Searcy.

She is survived by her sons, Harry Searcy of Clinton and Jack Searcy of Jackson; sisters, Mrs. Verdie Ponder of Jackson, Mrs. Lula Purvis of Puckett, and Mrs. Nola Ponder of Mendenhall; and eight grandchildren.

Library workshop to be in Jackson

The sixteenth annual Mississippi Baptist Church Media Library Workshop will be held on Nov. 13-14 in Jackson. The host church will be Woodland Hills, Jackson, at 3327 Old Canton Road at the Woodland Hills Shopping Center.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. on the first day of the meeting. During registration, a snack lunch will be provided by the TACMO of the Hinds-Madison Association.

The workshop is targeted for church media library personnel, church media library committee members, as well as pastor and staff members.

Clarke churches go over goal for state missions

Clarke County Association's churches report to date a total of \$6,690.78 given to state missions in special offerings in the 1987 special promotion season. The associational goal was \$5,000. Grady Crowell, director of missions for the association, states, "This is over \$1 per person average for our 5,828 reported members."

Alabamian to head presidents

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP) — Steve Tondera, a layman and president of the Alabama Baptist Convention, has been elected president of the state convention presidents' fellowship.

Tondera, an administrator at NASA and a member of First Church, Huntsville, succeeds Frank Gunn, president of Mississippi Baptists and pastor of First Church, Biloxi.

"Revival at seminary. . ."

(Continued from page 9)
fellowship, Sullivan said. The fellowship of first century Christians was "so uncommon that they had all things in common."

The third trait of the early church was an uncommon reliance upon the work of the Holy Spirit of God, Sullivan said. "It may well be that the scandal of the 20th century church is trying to do the work of God without

the power of God's Spirit."

During invitation times, students often crowded before the altar to pray and seek counsel. The overwhelming spirit of renewal felt in the services carried into many classrooms, where professors allowed students to give testimonies to God's current work in their own lives.

Scott Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.



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Just for the Record



Charles Melton, director of missions, Newton County, and professor of religious education at Clarke College, chats with Earl Kelly at the annual Religion Department banquet held at Clarke College Oct. 8. Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was principal speaker for this occasion. This is an annual event honoring all religion students at Clarke which allows them to become acquainted with Mississippi Baptist leaders.



First Church, Overt, Jones County, held its GA Badge Recognition Service in June. Pictured, from left, are Elizabeth Aultman, badge 4, Calinda Thompson, badge 4, Kimberly Aultman, badge 6, and Amy Morris, badge 6.

Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn County, dedicated a new sanctuary that seats 1,000 people on Oct. 4. Sunday School attendance was 771 with approximately 1,100 for morning worship. Kara Blackard is pastor.

Beulah Church, Four Mile Road, Inverness, is planning its 40th reunion on Nov. 22.

The schedule of activities is as follows: 9:45 a.m., pastors' reflection service; 11 a.m., morning worship service; James H. Burrell; noon, covered dish fellowship dinner; 1:30 p.m., gospel singers, The Gospel Notes from Cleveland; 3 p.m., reception, cutting of the cake.

Good Hope Church, Perry Association, will host a January Bible Study Preview, Malachi, Sat., Nov. 14, 9:30-2:30. J. W. Lee, professor, Old Testament, B.B.I., Graceville, Fla., guest teacher. Lunch will be provided. Good Hope Church is located two miles north of Richton off highway 15. David MacIssac is pastor.

Pearl Hill Church, Leake Association, passed its goal of 100 with 115 present in Sunday School on High Attendance Day, Oct. 25. "The church voted to begin the Sunday School Growth Spiral, the first Sunday in November," reports Eddie Pilgrim, pastor.

Joel Haire elected Record advisory committee chair

Joel Haire, pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs, has been elected chairman of the Baptist Record Advisory Committee. He replaces Marcus Finch, pastor of Oakland Heights Church, Meridian.

Gary Holland, editor of the Mississippi Press, daily newspaper in Pascagoula, was named vice-chairman. Evelyn Keyes, advertising coordinator for the Baptist Record, was re-elected secretary.

Finch and Ferrell Cork, pastor of First Church, Aberdeen, will rotate off

of the six-person committee at this year's convention. The other two persons of the committee are Martha Chambless of Oxford, and Odean Puckett, pastor of First Church, Natchez.

Each member of the committee serves for three years. Two rotate off of the committee each year.

The committee is elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention to confer with the editor on matters of content of the Baptist Record.



Tylertown Church, Tylertown, had its annual Sunday School banquet on September 29.

The evening began with a candlelight dinner, served by young people from the church. This year's theme of "Touch Lives — Change People" was carried out in a purple and gold motif of fans and chrysanthemums. Mrs. Virginia Jones was decorations chairman.

Neil Mitchell, Sunday School director for the past year, and Wendell Frazier, minister of education, presented awards for outstanding accomplishment in the Sunday School during the year. Mrs. Elizabeth Davis is the newly elected Sunday School director for the next year.

Entertainment was presented by the 1986 Miss Mississippi, Kim McGuffee of Mendenhall. "I was most inspired with the strong Christian character of this fine young lady," reported Frazier. "She spoke of how all of us need to keep our eyes on Christ and His plan for our lives," continued Frazier. Bartis Harper, pastor, had some closing comments.

White Oak Church, located six miles north of Edinburg in Neshoba County, will host a Bible Preaching Conference, Nov. 13-14. Friday night will begin at 7 and the Saturday service will begin at 5 p.m. and will close between 9 and 10 p.m.

"Bible preaching speakers will be called on from the floor as the pastor feels led of the Holy Spirit. Each preacher is reminded to come prepared to preach," says Greg Renfrow, pastor.

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BROADMAN

Senior Adult Corner

Attala senior adults attend retreat

A total of 99 senior adults representing 10 churches in Attala Association attended an annual retreat at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko, Oct. 15.

Special music was presented by Dale Little, pastor, Springdale Church, and music director for the Attala Association, and Jewell Greer, minister of music of Parkway Church. Dwight Brown, pastor at Ethel gave the devotional.

L. Edward Gandy, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko, and Tom McCurley, pastor of Williamsville Church were the afternoon speakers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Burns were honored as the couple who had been married the longest. They have celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Dot Craft is director of senior adult ministries of the Attala Association.

The Cavaliers, (senior adults) from Calvary Church, Petal, made a trip to New Orleans on Oct. 10. They took a five hour cruise down the Mississippi River into Louisiana Bayou Country. Phil Harris is pastor.

Freedom is not worth having if it does not connote freedom to err. — Mahatma Gandhi

Every man has his star. How it shines is up to him.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Where is the power for a life-style of the Spirit?

By Al Finch
Galatians 5:16-26

For man a conflict exists in his nature . . . a conflict between good and evil. The conflict is pictured by Paul as between Spirit and flesh.



Finch

This discussion has its antecedent in Galatians 5:14-15. If there is the proper social relationship the believer is to "walk in the Spirit." "This I say then" (Galatians 5:16) ties the two thoughts together. Galatians 5:26 completes the thought. Obviously there are conflicting life-styles for the believer (Galatians 5:16-18). When one leads the Christian life he is aware that there is a "fight" involved. Spirit and flesh are at "variance." H. A. Ironside had a story about an Indian who saw the conflict as two great dogs inside him. An

LIFE AND WORK

ugly black one representing flesh and a beautiful white one representing spirit. These dogs were always fighting. When asked which one won, he replied, "The one I say sic'em to!" Victory comes when one is "led of the Spirit." The life-style of the flesh is clear ("manifest"). The works are listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Fewer categories of evil works may be drawn from these verses: First there are sexual vices listed as "fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness." These terms are all inclusive of sexual immorality and perversion. (The better manuscripts do not include "adultery" but the other terms are broad enough to include it.) There are also sins committed in worship. They are "idolatry" and "witch craft." This includes anything that takes the place of God or excludes him in the function of life.

There are also social sins that are plain in living outside the Spirit. These are spelled out: "hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings." (Again "murder" is not in the best manuscripts but is included in the lists.)

Finally, there are the sins of intemperance, called "drunkenness" and "revelings." "And such like" indicates that the list is not exhaustive but gives an example of evil life-styles. "They which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God" refers not to one offense but to life-styles. One who does not live in the Spirit makes a habit of living evil lives.

The life-style of the Spirit is referred to as "fruits" (Galatians 5:22-23). Again an effort is made to categorize those qualities, "love, joy, peace." These are social qualities in relationships: "longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." These are conduct qualities: "meekness,

temperance." Notice "against such there is no law" indicates that these qualities are attitudinal. When the Spirit touches a life he is "sweet-spirited."

Someone has suggested that the qualities listed compare to I Corinthians 13:4-7. Each section contains the same ideas. Try to equate them!

Where is the power for a life-style of the Spirit? The answer is found in the New Testament message of death and resurrection (Galatians 5:24-25). If one belongs to Christ the cross becomes an event in his life. He dies to his own ambition or goals. "Flesh" is crucified. But we "live in the Spirit." Dying we are made alive by the Spirit of God. That is salvation, but we "also walk in the Spirit" which is sanctification. Only in the Spirit of God is man able to become what he should be in Christ.

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

Making things right: reunion of brothers

By Julian W. Fagan III
Genesis 32:1-33:20

One of the hardest things to do in life is to make things right with a person with whom you have a broken relationship, especially if there was fault on your part that led to the breaking. The struggle is compounded if time has passed and you have tried to push the reality aside for a number of years. The easy thing to do is avoid dealing with the issue: don't call, don't wave,



Fagan

cross the street to avoid contact, shop at another store, change banks, go to another church. However, that is not what God wants for his children. He wants us to make things right. He knows that there is tremendous joy in restoring relationships.

This passage tells us how two brothers with "bad blood" reconcile. Jacob and Esau parted company due to Esau's despising his birthright and Jacob's deceiving him out of it. The meeting was not something to which Jacob

looked forward. The passage helps us in discovering ways to make things right with other people.

Jacob wanted to go home, but the one thing that gripped him was fear, fear of his brother whom he had tricked. If the situation at Laban's had been at all tolerable, he may have stayed there for much longer. But, God directed Jacob to go home. The going home was a part of the plan God had for Jacob, so was making things right with his brother. The first step toward restored relationships is doing what God wants. God first wants us to be right with him. Jacob finally admitted his dependence on God as he met Esau; what he had, God had graciously given (Gen. 33:5). It took wrestling with God to make Jacob realize God was in control and could affect his life at the touch of a hip. We must be right with God before we can begin to be right with other people.

As Jacob entered the homeland again, he was met by the angels of God (32:1). God had pro-

mised his blessings and gave Jacob a glimpse of his presence. Jacob, however, was human enough to want to protect himself if he could. He sent advance notice to Esau couched in kind words. He also tactfully presented him with a series of gifts, 530 animals plus offspring. Maybe this was more like a bribe than a gift, but Esau was a sucker for bribes. Jacob then planned protection for his family as best he could by placing his favorites at the end of the procession to meet Esau.

This is so normal. Yet, it does not appear to have been necessary. God had promised his blessing and had been working on Esau's heart as well as Jacob's. God does that; he works on both ends at the same time. Perhaps it would behoove us to look at Jacob's motive in sending the gifts. No doubt gifts have an impact. It may be that one way to prove to that estranged person that we care is through a gift. If the motive is genuine sorrow and a desire to reconcile, no doubt it will be revealed in the gift. An attempt to reconcile without genuine sorrow and repentance will be recognized, regardless of the gift.

Look at the beauty of the reconciliation in Gen. 33:4, "... Esau ran to meet Jacob and em-

braced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept." Further words aren't necessary; that says it all. It had been 20 years. The feelings between them had been hate and fear; now there was acceptance and forgiveness. There was family again.

In your life God wants your relationships to be whole. Even if there has been hatred, bitterness, jealousy, and deceit in the past, God wants to restore that relationship. Begin with your own relationship with God. When we are right with him, the basis exists to restore a relationship with another. Be willing to meet the other person, acknowledging that all you have is from God, and if necessary, admitting your fault in the breaking. Think about it, they held each other and cried.

The grandest moment in their life-long relationship was experienced. The pain, the fear were gone. When there is reconciliation, joy rises to the heart and sings the songs of peace, love, and goodness. Anything better is hard to imagine. Family is not a bad place to start. "... Wonder if he is reading this same lesson? ..."

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

God's covenant with Noah, and man's rebellion

By Rex Yancey

Genesis 8:20-21; 9:11-13; 11:1-9a

The flood finally came to an end. Now it was time for the water to recede and for Noah and his family to repopulate the earth. God's creation was to continue after the flood. Surely mankind could learn the lesson of the flood. Man is responsible to God for his actions. Sin must be punished. The punishment for sin is the sin itself. Noah and his family were in the ark about 370 days.



Yancey

One can only imagine the elation in Noah's heart for being spared from God's judgment. He must somehow signify his gratitude to God in an act of worship. Surely the Creator is worthy of his worship because of the grace he extended to Noah and his family. "Olah" is the Hebrew word used for offering. It simply means "to go up." A burnt offering symbolized a total commitment because all of it was consumed.

Why did Noah offer an offering? Noah was delighted that the flood was over and the flood waters had been removed. He probably also

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wanted to offer himself to God as he sought to establish a new order.

God smelled the soothing aroma. This is another way of saying that God accepted Noah's offering. Noah's heart was right. He offered the sacrifice out of gratitude for what God had done for him. The offering was not an end in itself. He offered himself to the Lord out of his gratitude. The greatest motivation for serving God is not fear or duty but gratitude. When one has that motivation, it frees him from legalism and a sense of duty.

God is now going to make the covenant with Noah that he alluded to before the flood. Man is sinful in his very nature. Therefore, God is going to deal with man as he is. He will never again wipe out the population by a flood.

A covenant is a solemn agreement between two or more parties. It usually has to do with a religious agreement. It is a spiritual contract. It usually applies to God and man. However, there are covenants among people. Two parties enter into mutual agreement in obligations and

responsibilities. This is under the sanction of God who stood between the covenants as the guarantor.

Berith is the Hebrew word for covenant. It was customary to cut a covenant by the blood. The initiative of this covenant and the covenants to follow is on the part of God, not man. This covenant with Noah is universal, permanent, and unconditional.

The theological significance of the covenant with Noah was that it demonstrated God's imminence, his forbearance, his high estimate of faith and righteousness in men, and it was a demonstration of his sovereignty over human history.

The sign of the covenant was well suited to fulfill the function of covenant signs, which was reassurance. The sign was the seal of the accomplished fact. The obvious glory of the rainbow against the backdrop of a dark cloud seems sufficient to make it a token of grace. "The promise is not that a rainbow would be seen in every cloud, but that when it was seen, God would remember his covenant" (see Genesis by Derek Kidner).

The nations after the flood came from Shem,

Ham, and Japheth. Chapter 10 contains the "Who's Who in the East."

In chapter 11, the population that settled in Shinar seems to have made a contract to do three things. One, unite themselves politically to conquer the world. Their desire was to become strong in politics and trade. Two, they made a religious commitment to build a tower that would reach the heavens. Ziggurats were mini-storied rectangular buildings. The top story was the temple that was the throne room of the chief god. They placed this tower in the middle of the city. It appeared to be a state controlled religion. So called holy men and women were there as prostitutes as these shrines. This religion utilized imitative magic where the gods were excited to do what the prostitutes were doing. Three, it appeared to be a state controlled by dictators. They wanted to make a name for themselves. Apparently these people wanted a city for security, a tower (artificial mountain that connected heaven and earth) to worship, and to make a name for themselves. The more things change, the more they remain the same. Selah (Think on these things).

Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Steve & Becky Stewart
Pearl River Farmer's Cooperative
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Johnson
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Mrs. R. J. Koonce
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Lula Todd Lee
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James Hitt
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Mrs. Inez C. Swafford
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Mr. J. T. (Tom) Rone
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Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Ocie Clinton Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
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David, Nona, Rex, & Mike Croft
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Mrs. Ernestine Welborne
Muriel Anderson & Ruth Sullivan
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Mrs. Virginia Williams
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Mr. & Mrs. Harry K. Woods
Mrs. Wydelle Windham
Mrs. Frances Allen Hart
Mrs. Jack (Mary J.) Winstead
Mrs. Mary S. Sullivan & Family
Mrs. Ivie Wooten
Cecil & Herman Forbus
John Bell Young
Sam & Marjorie Carter

HOUSEPARENTS

Ladies or couples over the age of 30 are eligible to apply for position as Houseparent(s) at The Baptist Children's Village. We are presently in great need of Houseparent staff.

If you are interested please call Mr. Henry Glaze of The Baptist Children's Village at (601) 922-2242 or write him at P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, Mississippi, 39213.



Mrs. Winnie Partin is seen here with Mr. Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director, receiving a service pin for 10 years as a Housemother at The Baptist Children's Village. Mrs. Partin continues to be a very vital part of many young peoples' lives at The Village.



Mrs. Frances Boyanton is a Housemother presently working in our Maternity Care Cottage on The India Nunnery Campus. Mrs. Boyanton is receiving a 10-year service pin from Mr. Paul N. Nunnery for her years of dedication as a Housemother to The Baptist Children's Village.

VISIT OUR BOOTH DURING THE CONVENTION

During the Mississippi Baptist Convention (November 9-10-11) the Baptist Children's Village will again have a demonstration booth in the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church. This year punch and coffee will be served. Dr. Kermit D. McGregor, Director of Public Relations; Rev. Jerry Jackson, Associate in Church/Public Relations and Mrs. Chrystelle Thames, Secretary in the Public Relations office, will be present to distribute materials, answer questions about Village ministries, schedule speaking and preaching events on behalf of Village representatives.

Please stop by our booth!

HONORS

Mr. Charles L. Miller
John W. Emory
Mrs. Becky Milling
Alathea Sunday School Class, Collins BC
Mrs. Ida Mae Murray
Ms. Helion L. Monroe
Mrs. Libby Savely
Mrs. Erin W. Staggs
Dr. James W. Street
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hunter

Baptist Record

High court asked to uphold churches' ability to lobby

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — Led by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a coalition of church bodies has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm the constitutional rights of churches to participate in public referenda without registering as political action committees.

The church groups' views were communicated to the high court in a friend-of-the-court brief written by BJCPA General Counsel Oliver S. Thomas and Loyola (Los Angeles) Law School professor Edward M. Gaffney Jr. The brief was filed Sept. 23 on behalf of the BJCPA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, Christian Legal Society, and National Association of Evangelicals.

Appealing to the First Amendment's protections of freedom of religion and speech, the brief asked the nation's highest court to review and reverse a decision earlier this year of the Tennessee Supreme Court. That ruling upheld a Tennessee law requiring churches to submit to the state detailed financial disclosure statements if they spend more than \$250 annually urging voters to support or reject any issue put on the ballot for public approval or disapproval.

The brief noted that several other states have similar laws, none of

which has been tested in court, making the Tennessee case one of "first impression." If the high court were to agree to hear the dispute, the decision in the case could have nationwide application.

Thirteen Jackson, Tenn., churches were found to have violated the Tennessee Campaign Financial Disclosure Act by sponsoring paid advertisements opposing a liquor-by-the-drink referendum proposal. Nine of the 13 congregations are affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The August 1984 referendum proposal to allow liquor-by-the-drink sales lost by 40 votes. Later that month, the state attorney general issued an opinion that the churches were political action committees as defined by the law and were subject to filing the financial disclosure forms.

Instead, the churches challenged the provision of the law defining them as political action committees.

In their brief to the nation's high court, Thomas and Gaffney argued that application of the Tennessee law to churches "severely chills the ability . . . to advance their positions on a wide variety of public policy matters."

The "religious autonomy and integrity" of churches are threatened,

they wrote, "when the government seeks to regulate a religious body."

The brief noted further that while public authorities may conduct a "bona fide investigation of fraud, undue influence, private inurement, or other misconduct," the state "has no business scrutinizing the internal financial affairs of religious bodies."

The Supreme Court is expected to decide whether to hear the Jackson churches' appeal sometime after it convenes for a new term Oct. 5.

Stan Hastey writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.

Hospital names vice president

MEMPHIS — Lynne S. Evans has accepted the position as vice president of Baptist Memorial Health Care System (BMHCS), effective Nov. 9. Mrs. Evans has been serving as assistant director of the University of Tennessee Medical Center at Memphis since 1983.

In announcing the appointment, Joseph H. Powell, president of BMHCS, said Mrs. Evans is filling a

new position designed to manage a wide range of related services in the system. Mrs. Evans will serve as administrative liaison for clinical program emphasis, medical staff development, marketing, and communications.

Mrs. Evans is a 1969 graduate of the University of Alabama and a 1975 master's degree graduate of the University of Tennessee.

Ridgecrest, Glorieta accepting applications for summer jobs

NASHVILLE — Students, senior adults, and those in between can take advantage of summer employment opportunities at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers. Both are now accepting applications for employment on their 1988 summer staffs.

Information may be obtained from Ridgecrest by writing to Summer

Employment, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, P. O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770 or by calling (704) 669-8022.

Information about Glorieta employment may be obtained by writing Summer Employment, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, P. O. Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535-0008 or by calling (505) 757-6161.

Book Reviews

CARING FOR FOLKS FROM BIRTH TO DEATH. Hightower, James E. Jr., Nashville: Broadman, 1985.

James Hightower is employed by the Sunday School Board. He says that as he has traveled around the country, he has sensed a need for a book on pastoral care that covers all age groups and also helps the local minister know how he should minister to those age-groups. As a result of this evident need, Hightower has compiled this book on pastoral care.

The book contains seven chapters, each written by a different author. Cos H. Davis Jr. wrote a chapter entitled

"The Preschool Years: Enjoying Dependency/Developing Independence." Bruce P. Powers wrote a chapter entitled "The Early School Years: Finding Acceptance," which deals with grade-school children and the problems they face. James L. Minton wrote a chapter entitled "Adolescence: Stuck in the Middle" dealing with youth. J. Thom Meigs wrote a chapter entitled "Young Adulthood: Starting on Your Own" dealing with "young marrieds" as they are called in most churches. George H. Gaston III wrote a chapter entitled "The Middle Years: On the Go!" dealing with what some have

called the sandwiched generation." Albert L. Meiburg wrote a chapter entitled "Senior Adulthood: Twilight or Dawn?" dealing with the Senior Adults in our churches. Author/Compiler Hightower wrote a final chapter entitled "Toward a Holistic Approach to Caring."

Each chapter deals with some of the sociological characteristics of a particular age-group and then offers some helpful pointers on how to minister to that particular age. From time to time, some of the authors tend to get a bit "bogged down" in the sociological material. I would have preferred some more practical advice from each author.

A good book, not excellent. Would be good for any minister to have. — Reviewed by Gregg Potts, Pastor of Providence Church, Meadville.

SCRAPBOOK

Lessons from a spider

Once more, I was sitting on the couch reading my Bible. Out of the corner of my eye, movement attracted my attention. I looked just in time to see a huge spider squeeze under the front door, scurry along the baseboard, and then under a four-legged cabinet.

Abruptly, he came to a stop and looked upward. There hanging by

a thread of a web was a tiny spider. My first impulse was to get up, kill both spiders, and clean the web from the furniture but I decided I'd see what would happen.

The little spider ran up his web to the top of the cabinet (I thought he was afraid) but when he came down again he had a strand of web that got longer as he came. Up he

ran; down he came with another strand, many times.

The huge spider just watched him and waited for him to get within reach but the little spider always stayed just a hair away.

After his web was strengthened the little spider began to "lasso" every leg the bigger spider raised toward him. After all legs were "roped" the little spider went all around the bigger spider checking

for any weakness in his strands of webbing.

Finally, I thought, "Enough of this; I'll scoot the big spider out the door and remove that web from the furniture." But when I went to "scoot," the big spider did not move. He was not longer capable of moving.

After I sat down again and began to think about what I had seen, I said to God, "I know there is a lesson to be learned here. What are you trying to tell me?"

I was impressed that the little spider could be compared to the children of God. The huge spider could be compared to the problems that come our way. The cabinet could be compared to the stability and anchorship of God. The strands of webbing could be compared to the Word of God.

If I, as a child of God, would use the Word of God on all my problems they would be rendered incapable of destroying me just as the huge spider was incapable of destroying the smaller spider.

—Linda S. Leach
Greenville

One man's life

One man's Life, so full of trials
Love, confusion, and self denials,
Anger, pain, and loneliness, too,
Sadness, gladness, and misery blue.

He climbs the hills, walks valleys wide
Visits the sick and by the law abides
With dreads, regrets, and dreams of when
He will finally find rest and peace within.

He works hard all day to earn his bread
For hungry children must be fed.
He takes them fishing, to games and such,
Oh, How he loves his kids — so much.

He struggles and strives to do his best;
To be good as he can is his ultimate quest.
But when he dies, that one destined date,
He hears, "Why should you enter this gate?"

"You were honest, good, and never a liar,
Attended church and sang in the choir,
You were kind to neighbors and witnessed to men,
But never asked me to be your best friend.

"To all around you appeared to be mine,
But true faith in me I never did find.
Depart from me, for you I've never known.
You enter here by faith, not by works alone."

—Gloria Eaves
Meridian

All wise men share one trait in common: the ability to listen.

The greatest remedy for anger is delay. — Seneca

Baptist Record

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November 5, 1987